New-York Tribune.

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The Weekly Tribune.

NEWS SUMMARY.

WAR NEWS.

Department of the Gulf.

Gen. Davidson's great raid from Baton Rouge has been heard from. Gen. Davidson reached Tangipahoa on the 30th ult., burned a conscript camp, destroyed all the stores and dwellings, captured large numbers of horses, and carried along with him immense numbers of negroes. Mobile papers of the 4th inst. say he was marching on that city. He has a force of 5,000 cavalry. Price claims to have accomplished all he intended in Missouri, and returned at his leisure with immense stores. Gen. Canby's wound is gradually healing, and he attends to all the important business of his office. Lieut. Earl's men have captured Gen. Kirby Smith's Adjutant-General. The Rebels are moving large quantities of cotton toward the river. The Electoral College of Louisiana met on the 7th, cast their seven votes for Lincoln and Johnson, and appointed a messenger to convey them to Washington.

Southern News.

The Rebel Senate at a recent session framed a bill to render all free male negroes between 18 and 50 liable to do any labor needed for military defense, for rations, clothes, and $18 a month; authorizes the Rebel Secretary of War to hire 20,000 slaves, and the general in command beyond the Mississippi to hire 10,000 more, for the like purpose; and if they cannot be hired to impress them. Amendments were made, exempting such slaves as State laws exempt, but not to diminish the State quota, to allow pay to the owners of slaves so employed, and to limit the time of their employment to a year.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Blunt, Chairman of the N. Y. County Volunteer Committee, has received the following important order on the subject of substitutes:

OFFICE OF THE A. A. PROVOST-MARSHAL-GEN'L AND SUP'T VOLUNTEER RECRUITING SERVICE, SOUTHERN DIVISION OF N. Y.—NEW-YORK, Dec. 17, 1864.

CIRCULAR No. 105.—The A. A. Provost-Marshal-General calls the attention of Provost-Marshals to the following communication from the Bureau of Equipment, Navy Department:

"NAVY DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF EQUIPMENT, ETC., WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.

"To Captain GAMBLE, *Naval Recruiting Officer, 189 York-st., Brooklyn, N. Y.:*

"SIR: Hereafter you will not enlist any person as a substitute for a drafted man, or one liable to be drafted, except there shall be presented or received a certificate from a Provost-Marshal stating that such substitute is entitled to be enlisted in the navy, and is to be credited to the district named in the certificate.

"The names of substitute and principal are always to be noted in the Provost-Marshal's certificate, and when either of these are wanted the man is not to be shipped. Every Saturday you will send the certificate of enlistment to the Provost-Marshal, and copies of the same to this Bureau.

"Respectfully, A. N. SMITH, Chief of Bureau."

Provost-Marshals in compliance with this order, will examine men desirous of enlisting in the navy as substitutes, and having first ascertained that the principal, by his written request, desires a substitute, will issue the necessary certificate.

The same affidavit as to non-liability to draft will be required as in the case of an enlistment for the army.

Volunteers in the navy need not necessarily be enrolled and liable to draft in order to be credited to the place where they enlist. Section 9 of the act to amend an Act entitled "An Act for enrolling and calling out the National Forces, and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1863, having been suspended by section 3 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the efficiency of the Navy," approved July 1, 1864.

H. F. BROWNSON, Assistant Adjutant-General.

ORISON BLUNT, esq.

News from Lexington, Ky., down to Dec. 20, speak encouragingly of Gen. Burbridge's operations in East Tennessee, and of matters generally in Tennessee and Kentucky. Affairs in the whole of the military district of Kentucky are remarkably bright. General McLean has succeeded in driving the Rebel guerrilla bands from the line of the Frankfort Railroad, where they were interrupting trains, but no long stopping of the running of the trains was thus occasioned. Gen. McLean has now a force out hunting the remaining Rebels in the district. An officer who arrived from Cumberland reports having heard of a spirited engagement between the Union forces under Gens. Burbridge and Stoneman, and the Rebel commanders of the Confederate Department of south-western Virginia. The fight is reported to have taken place near the line of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, and either at or in the neighborhood of Saltville. The incoming reports contain nothing looking toward a reverse; but, on the contrary, are very encouraging, and lead us to think that if the reported engagement was of any moment, it was certainly a valuable success to our side. Burbridge's movement is creating very considerable stir among the Rebels where he is operating; at least so say citizens and prisoners. No doubt there is good cause for this. At or near Wytheville the Rebels are known to have a pontoon train, and are also known to have large quantities of supplies at very many of the various stations on the line of the railroad. The Rebels are making as strong an effort as they can to check Burbridge, by concentrating their scattered forces toward his front, flank and rear; but they have not got troops enough at their command, from all that we can learn, to drive him off or thwart his plans. Rolling Fork, near New-Haven, on the Lebanon branch road, was burned on Friday night, by a gang of guerrillas, under Billy Magruder. Railroad communication between Louisville and Lebanon for the present, owing to this piece of vandalism, is destroyed. The guerrilla raid into Milton, Ky., is reduced to the following proportions: Fifteen of Jesse's men, all well armed and mounted, rode into Milton, fired on the Dumont and went on board, searched the ferry-boat Union and shortly afterward moved off toward Bedford. Adam Johnson, who gives his rank as Brigadier-General of the provisional army of the Confederate States, and who was wounded and captured in Southern Kentucky some months ago, will be forwarded to Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, to-day. Ever since his capture he has been on parole by order of Gen. Burbridge. The Rebel General Lyon, who threatened to do so much mischief, has been met and driven back, and is now retreating out of danger rapidly.

By order of the Secretary of War Brig.-Gen. Joseph Hays and Col. Stephen M. Weld, jr., 56th Massachusetts, prisoners of war, have been selected to oversee the arrangement made to receive and distribute to our prisoners of war in the South clothing and other necessaries that may be issued by the Government or contributed by individuals. The Government will forward to our prisoners the following articles: Uniform hats, caps, coats and jackets, flannel shirts, drawers, bootees, stockings, woolen and gum blankets, and commissary stores. The friends of the prisoners forward to them by flag-of-truce boat, or other authorized channel, the following articles: Coats, pants, vests, underclothes, socks, hats, caps, shoes, handkerchiefs, suspenders, looking-glasses, towels, brushes, combs, clothes, brooms, buttons, tape, thread, sewing-cotton, pins and needles, scissors, pocket-knives, paper envelopes, steel pens, lead pencils, pen-knives, postage stamps, tobacco, cigars, pipes, snuff, crushed sugar, sirups, family soap, butter, lard, smoked beef, beef tongue, Bologna sausage, corn meal, nutmegs, pepper, mustard, table salt, salt fish, crackers, cheese, pickles, sauces, vegetables, dried fruit, lemons, nuts, apples, matches, yeast powder, crockery, glassware, tinware, meats and fish in cans. All articles must be forwarded to Col. John E. Mulford at Fortress Monroe.

It having been officially reported that Mr. Ould, Rebel Commissioner of Exchange, had declared, without consulting the authorities of the United States, that all the Rebel prisoners declared for exchange on parole by the United States Government up to Nov. 25, 1864, were exchanged, the War Department has ordered that all Union prisoners of war of the army and navy, and all civilians, on parole for exchange up to Nov. 25, 1864, be declared exchanged. All paroled officers and enlisted men declared exchanged, who are in camp, will be immediately forwarded by the commandants of camps to their regiments and commands, and will be reported to the Commissary-General of Prisoners accordingly. Those who are absent on leave will, on the expiration of their leaves, repair forthwith to their parole camps at Annapolis, Md., and Columbus, Ohio.

A laudable enterprise has just been undertaken by the Christian Commission and is being practically carried out, viz: to provide libraries for our soldiers in the field. In order to secure 30,000 volumes of good choice books, every friend at home is asked to purchase and send one or more to the Christian Commission as a New-Year's gift to the soldiers. They will be assorted and forwarded to the proper quarters under the care of the agents of the Commission.

Gen. Dix has transmitted an authorization for raising a new cavalry regiment in New-England, designed for frontier service. One battalion of 400 men is to be recruited in Massachusetts.

It is said that the notorious brigand Quantrell was removed in an ambulance with Price's retreating army, sick beyond the hope of recovery.

GENERAL NEWS.

News from Washington.

The policy of reconstructing the Rebellious States received its finishing impression on the 15th. Mr. Ashley's bill introduced into the House provides for the appointment by the President of Provisional Governors of Rebel States, who shall see that the laws of the United States and of the State before the Rebellion are enforced. But no law or usage recognizing Slavery shall be recognized by any officer or court in such State. It emancipates all slaves in such State and their posterity forever, and provides for the discharge on habeas corpus of persons held to service on pretense of ownership. It provides for the punishment of attempts to reënslave emancipated persons. It declares that officers of the rank of colonel or higher in the Rebel service are not citizens of the United States. The seventh section is in these words:

"The United States, in Congress here assembled, do hereby recognize the Government of the State of Louisiana, inaugurated under and by the convention of the people of Louisiana which assembled on the 6th day of April, 1864, at the City of New-Orleans, and declare the same to be entitled to the guarantee and all other rights of a State government under the Constitution of the United States."

This important section, the accomplishment of Gen. Banks's reconstruction policy, is said to have been agreed to by the reconstruction committees of both houses. It is understood that Henry Winter Davis even has promised to support it. The conclusion to report this seventh section is said to have been reached through an interview with the President, in which it was intimated that his approval of the bill depended on its insertion. The bill further provides for the calling of Conventions in States whose Governments have been usurped and overthrown, as soon as the military resistance to the United States shall have been suppressed, and the people shall have sufficiently returned to their allegiance. The Conventions are required to provide that persons in Rebel civil or military service of and above the grade of Colonel, shall not vote for or be a member of the Legislature or Governor. Involuntary servitude is prohibited, and the freedom of all persons to be guaranteed in the said States. No debt, State or Confederate, created by the usurping power is to be recognized. If the Convention shall refuse to reëstablish the State Government upon the above conditions, the provisional Government is to declare it dissolved, and another election of delegates is to be ordered.

The following was officially promulgated at Washington on the 17th:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1864.

The President directs that except immigrant passengers directly entering an American port by sea, no traveler shall hereafter be allowed to enter the United States from a foreign country without a passport. If a citizen, the passport must be from this Department or from some United States Minister or Consul abroad, and if an alien, from the competent authority of his own country, the passport to be countersigned by a diplomatic agent or Consul of the United States. This regulation is intended to apply especially to persons proposing to come to the United States from the neighboring British Provinces. Its observance will be strictly enforced by all officers, civil, military and naval, in the service of the United States; and the State and Municipal authorities are requested to aid in its execution. It is expected here that no immigrant passenger coming by sea or the manner aforesaid will be obstructed, or any other persons who may set out on their way hither before intelligence of this regulation could reasonably be expected to reach the country from which they may have started.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Sec. of State.

The Supreme Court Chamber was filled on the 15th with ladies and gentlemen to witness the ceremony of Chief-Justice Chase taking his seat. At a few minutes past eleven, the crier formally announced the coming of the Justices, who, as is customary, appeared in their robes of office. Justice Wayne walked in front of his associates and was followed by the Chief-Justice. They all separated to their respective chairs and remained standing while the Chief-Justice himself read the oath of office, a written copy of which had been handed him by Justice Wayne. Mr. Middleton, the Clerk of the Court, read and recorded the commission, all the Justices being seated, the Court proceeded to business.

The Secretary of State on the 19th sent a communication to the House in reply to the resolution directing him to transmit all correspondence in full in relation to the troubles on the Northern border. He reports that these difficulties are not merely local, but have arisen mainly out of the attitude of Great Britain toward us at the beginning of this civil war. The correspondence is very voluminous, beginning with the commencement of the civil war. He refers the House to the correspondence accompanying the President's Messages of 1861, 1862 and 1863. The correspondence is now going on, and will be given by way of supplements as soon as it can be prepared.

New-York.

Mrs. Eliza W. Farnham died on Thursday morning, Dec. 15, at the residence of Mr. B. F. Voorhees in this city. Mrs. Farnham was born at Rensselaerville, Albany County, November 17, 1815, and had consequently just entered upon her fiftieth year at the time of her death. Her family name was Burhans, and in 1836 she was married to Mr. Thomas J. Farnham, a traveler and writer of considerable note. After residing for a few years in the State of Illinois, she returned to New-York, devoting herself mainly to works of benevolence and social reform. In 1844 she was appointed matron of the female department of Sing Sing State Prison, in which office her kind and judicious efforts in behalf of the convicts were productive of the happiest effects. During her residence at Sing Sing she published her first work entitled "Life in the Prairie Land," and edited an edition of Sampson's "Criminal Jurisprudence." In 1848, she was connected with the Institution for the Blind in Boston, and in 1849, followed her husband to California, where she remained until 1856. Upon her return to New-York in that year, she published an account of her experience in the Golden State entitled "California Indoors and Out," and for the next two years devoted herself to the study of medicine. In 1859, she organized a society for the aid of emigrant women, large numbers of whom she accompanied at different times to the West and to California. The same year, she published an autobiographical sketch called "My Early Days." The work by which Mrs. Farnham will be chiefly remembered, and to the preparation of which she had devoted her best labors for twenty years, entitled "The Era of Woman," was published about a year since, and attracted not a little attention by the originality and boldness of its views, and the vigorous ingenuity with which they were maintained. She was a generous, noble-hearted woman, fully imbued with the spirit of self-devotion, with strong faith in the lofty destinies of humanity, and cherishing an ardent zeal for whatever promised to advance its progress and elevation.

The St. Louis papers are in temporary trouble in consequence of an attempt by the Printers' Union there to regulate the internal management of their offices. The papers rebel, the Union is smashed, a hundred men are out of employ, and all goes on about as well as ever.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Europe.

The Hibernian, from Liverpool, Dec. 1, via Londonderry Dec. 2, arrived at Portland on Saturday, bringing five days' later news from Europe.

Earl Russell has replied to the manifesto of the Rebel Commissioners that the Government of Great Britain is equally friendly to "the Northern and Southern States of the formerly united Republic of North America," and will continue to observe the strictest neutrality.

Prussia has summoned the Governments of Hanover and Saxony to withdraw their troops from Holstein. The demand will be complied with. The mediation of Austria has averted a collision.

A meeting at Bristol, England, to celebrate the reëlection of Lincoln was broken up by rioters who cheered Jefferson Davis and General Lee.

The New-York correspondent of *The London Times* admits that the manner in which the Presidential election was conducted, is in the highest degree honorable to the American people.

The Paris Constitutionel has a warning against pirates, supposed to refer to letters of marque issued by Juarez. *The Opinion Nationale* justly reminds the Imperialist paper of its having patronized the Alabama and other rebel pirates.

The new Cunard mail steamer Cuba, from Liverpool on Dec. 3, and Queenstown Dec. 4, arrived here on the 20th, bringing two days later news from Europe.

Canada.

The Cabinet at Quebec had a long session on the 15th, and it is understood that the members unanimously denounced the act of Judge Coursal discharging the St. Albans raiders. The pretense was that the Canadian extradition act of 1861 was not in force because it had not been assented to by the Queen in council. If the Judge had inquired of the Government, he would have found that her Majesty had specially assented to that act. He made an assertion against the validity of the act of the Canadian Legislature without proof. It turns out that his assumption was false. The Attorney-General, it is understood, advised the issue of new warrants on the same night by the Judge of the Superior Court of Montreal for the re-arrest of the raiders, some of whom have gone east to Halifax, and some west. Officers are on their tracks and they cannot escape if they remain in Canada. The Canadian Government has no legal right to interfere directly, as the courts have independent jurisdiction. If the judges refuse to do their duty or act corruptly, they may be suspended, or in some cases, dismissed. It is probable that Coursal will be dismissed. The Government at Washington has been officially informed that fresh warrants have been issued for the apprehension of the St. Albans raiders who were recently discharged pursuant to a decision of a Constable's Court, and that the police in that quarter are making every effort to prevent their escape. Parliament, which usually meets in February, will be summoned to assemble in the middle of January, when laws will be passed to meet the exigency of the great change of public feeling toward the Confederates since they have shown an intention of embroiling the two countries in war.

A private dispatch from a trustworthy source at Montreal states that there is a perfect panic in Canada among railway managers, in anticipation of non-intercourse with the United States, which is expected, unless the Government takes prompt action to allay the excitement on the borders. Another Cabinet meeting was held on the 16th, and Parliament has been summoned to meet on the 19th of January. Stipendiary magistrates have been appointed on the frontier, especially to take cognizance of breaches of the international laws; and they are to be aided by a strong police force.

The pretext upon which the St. Albans raiders have been set at large and their plunder restored to them, is that it was necessary under the Act of the British Parliament for the Governor-General of Canada to have issued his warrant for their arrest. This is believed to be the first among the many cases of extradition which have taken place, wherein this rule has been applied. The Canadian Acts of the 30th of May, 1849, and the 18th of May, 1861, were passed expressly to provide for the contrary. They contain the following words:

"And whereas, certain provisions of the Act passed by the Parliament of Great Britain for the apprehension of certain offenders have been found inconvenient in practice in this province, and more especially that province which requires that *before any such offender as aforesaid shall be arrested, a warrant shall issue under the hand and seal of the person administering the Government, etc.*"

Justice Short, of the Lower Canada Superior Court, has refused to discharge a person demanded by the U. S. authorities for having stabbed several persons in New-Hampshire, on grounds like those on which Coursal freed the St. Albans robbers. This refusal overrules Coursal's decision. Thirty companies of volunteers have been dispatched to the frontier this week. Lamothe, Chief of Police of Montreal, has resigned, doubtless to avoid dismissal. It was reported that Coursal had also resigned, but it is not true.

The President of the United States having disapproved of that portion of Gen. Dix's recent order which instructs all military authorities on the frontier, in certain cases, to cross the boundary line between the United States and Canada, Gen. Dix, on the 17th, issued an order revoking those instructions, and directing, in case of future marauding expeditions into our territory from Canada, that the military commanders on the frontier report to his headquarters in this city for orders.

A dispatch from Montreal states that Mr. Porterfield, the agent of the Confederate Government, and now custodian of the money taken by the St. Alban's raiders, is to be examined, and it is probable that the money taken by the raiders will be given up to the proper authorities.

South America.

On the 14th ult. the Plenipotentiaries of the Argentine Republic, Chili, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, the United States of Columbia and Venezuela, met at Lima, and opened the South American Congress. The news that reënforcements for Admiral Pinzon were on the way from Spain, and are now near at hand, has roused the people thoroughly. They have urged the President (Pezat) to immediate action, and given him every evidence that his present do-nothing policy was anything but popular. Pezat still remains inactive, though he appears to realize his position and to dread the people. He, fearing an outbreak, has had guns placed at the entrance of the palace, and the guards strengthened. On the evening of the 21st ult. the Congress closed its conference by resolving unanimously that the Government of Peru:

First: Proceed immediately to give the necessary instructions for the recovery of the Chincha Islands, and report to Congress within eight days.

Second: That the President of Peru shall have no power to make any treaty or have any terms with the cabinet of Madrid until the Islands have been given up by Spain or taken by the forces of the Republic.

On the day after these resolutions were passed, Pezat went down to Callao and ordered the fleet to proceed on a cruise for exercise. On the night of the 25th ult., the Triunfo, the flagship of the Spanish squadron at the Chinchas, was totally destroyed by fire at her anchorage. No particulars of the disaster have been received. This gives the Peruvian fleet an excellent opportunity to attack, and with the above resolutions leads us to anticipate stirring news from Callao.

The legislature of Chili has decreed that the coasting trade of the Republic is open to vessels of all nations; and that anchorage, tonnage, light dues as well as wharf charges, have been abolished entirely. The number of articles hitherto free of duty has been reduced three-fourths, and the export duties have been lowered considerably.

Cuba.

It is reported in private correspondence from Havana that a republican insurrection has broken out at Puerto Principe, Cuba, headed by a gentleman named Bettancourt; that there is much excitement in the interior of Cuba, and that a force of 1,000 men sent from Havana to put down the movement is expected to prove insufficient.

THE WEED LIBEL SUIT.

This case was on the 14th opened for the defense by Mr. Pierrepont, who, after an introduction on the subject of public corruption in other countries and in this one, explained Mr. Weed's ground of defense, viz: that the things he alleged against the plaintiff are true. The quarrel between Messrs. Opdyke and Weed, he stated, began with a difference about a repeal of the usury law, which Mr. Opdyke wanted, and Mr. Weed opposed. Mr. Weed afterward refused to have further dealings with Mr. Opdyke, owing to two attacks on Mr. Weed in a New-York daily, attributed to Mr. Opdyke. While Mayor, Mr. Opdyke vetoed the resolution of the New-York Common Council to give Mr. Weed the freedom of the city and a public dinner, admitting at the close of his veto that there were other reasons than those he had expressed which he would not give. The Common Council passed the resolution over his veto, and Weed received the freedom of the city. The present libel law permits justification by showing the truth of the charges, and the plaintiff will be made to testify to this, himself. The counsel now explained by what lines of evidence he intended to show the truth of the several charges by Mr. Weed against Mr. Opdyke, viz., that he obtained of the city some $60,000 more than he was entitled to as pay for his losses by the destruction of his gun factory; that he extorted large sums of money from Gen. Fremont for arranging the Mariposa estate business; that he received $10,000 or part of it for allowing Mr. Andrews to become Surveyor of the port of New-York, and that he made extortionating contracts with Government about army clothes. This proof, as shown by the counsel in a long and circumstantial narrative, was to consist of the transactions between one McNeil, a member of the State Legislature, Mr. Opdyke and Mr. Andrews, late Surveyor of the port of New-York, about securing the appointment to the surveyorship by raising money from the clerks to pay Mr. Opdyke; of a series of occurrences and conversations tending to show that Mr. Opdyke had contrived to let his gun factory be left undefended in order to have it destroyed and obtain excessive indemnity, and that he afterward made out his charges against the city by a dishonest rule. He also promised to show that Mr. Opdyke had asserted both that he did and did not own an interest in contracts with Government, as was most likely to advance his interests at different times, and he promised circumstantial proof about the Fremont charge and the army contract extortion charge. The testimony was now introduced, and after some preliminary formal evidence, Loren Jones, who was superintendent of the armory, and familiar with the whole of the business then, and had 75 cents on each gun made besides a salary, thus testified to the mode of making out Mr. Opdyke's claim:

I took a piece of paper and showed him that there were 500 guns all completed which would have been delivered to the Government that day, and to charge the Government price for them, then charge $24 70 for the unfinished ones, less the actual expense of completing them; for instance, if a thousand required $2 each to finish them, to charge $22 70, and the rest in the same proportion; the claim was made up on the principle stated; I said to him that the books showed so much money paid out, and other parties had claims—Remington, McNeil, and others—and their claims ought to be added; he asked me to see Farley and talk with him about the matter, and give him more of the details, and he would see Farley and consider the matter; it was conducted in the name of Farley, Opdyke's son-in-law as proprietor; I went and found Farley; I stated the matter to him; I understood him to say he understood it; I know what the account was that was rendered to the supervisors; the guns amounted to some $110,000 in the bill. Q. What could the guns, in the condition they were when destroyed, have been duplicated for or replaced? A. A finished gun could be made for $14, with an establishment all completed; this one lacked a few parts of machinery; some work had to be done out; they would probably cost about $16 in our establishment at that time; before the contract was made with Marston, I went and got estimates from manufacturers at Newark, Hartford, Boston, this city and elsewhere; they varied from $13 to $15. Q. Explain the principle upon which you made the account $13,87 and $17 31 for an unfinished gun. A. We estimated what it would cost to complete the guns, and deducted the same from the Government contract price; in the item of $22,73 it would cost $2 to complete the gun. Q. State the amount of profit which this mode of making up the account would realize on each gun? A. Some $10 on that basis.

Cross-examined—On the 3,000 guns there would be a profit of $32,000; by the destruction of the factory, Opdyke was prevented from getting that profit from the Government.

Adjourned.

THURSDAY, Dec. 15.—Loren Jones was further examined and cross-examined. He thus stated in two different ways how he made out Opdyke's claim against the city:

There was $165,000 in cash paid out at the time of the fire; the amount of claims was about $15,000, making $200,000; the assets were $28,000 received from Government; machinery, &c., $97,000; value of 6,000 unfinished guns, at the cost of duplicating or replacing them, $46,000; total, $171,000; which, deducted from the cost, leaves $29,000 upon that theory; I did not put down these figures at the Mayor's office.

Q. Put down the figures now as you did at the Mayor's office. A. (Writing figures upon a paper), the figures were not so minute as I have made them here; this is the substance; total amount paid out and claims, $237,000; viz: $185,000 cash paid out, with $7,000 interest; claims, $45,000; $15,000 for material and services; $30,000 to the patentees, McNeil, Remington, Farley and myself.

Q. What did you give to balance it? A. The proceeds of the guns delivered to the Government, $28,000; proceeds of auction sale of refuse, $2,000; the total was $207,000; it would have cost some $53,000 to replace the guns destroyed, as we were situated.

Mr. Jones further testifies that the carbines made were worth $25 each; that the armory was netting $500 a day to the owners; that he believed the mode of making the claim a fair one; that he did not think that mounted police could have reached the armory in time to save it; that he had no idea from Mr. Opdyke's manners that he wanted the armory burned. Charles McNeil, a member of the Legislature, was sworn. He had advanced, for the use of the armory, $6,250, and was to have $2 for each gun sold and paid for, instead of a previous mortgage security. He described an interview between himself and Opdyke, at which witness became angry, called Opdyke "a damned rascal and a damned liar," in consequence of a disagreement about the amount of witness's claim out of the indemnity. A discussion on the admissibility of witness's evidence that he called Opdyke a swindler, resulted in his being permitted so to testify. Witness gave an account of his negotiating an agreement between Andrews and Opdyke, that Opdyke was to drop Stanton for Surveyor and permit Andrews to obtain the place, in return for which Andrews was to levy $10,000 on the clerks under him toward expenses of Opdyke's election as Mayor. Witness said Andrews paid but $7,000 and odd instead of $10,000, and did not, as he had promised, put witness's men into offices in the Custom-House. Witness said there had been $20,000 or $30,000 of judgments against him for fourteen years; the money advanced to the armory was his wife's, or borrowed by her. There was a long cross-examination, in the end of which witness said he went to Washington, at Opdyke's request, to try to sell 170,000 blankets to Government, but failed. McNeil's examination lasted into Friday, 16th.

Bernardus Hendrickson testified to the circumstances under which, at McNeil's request, he advanced $7,000 for the use of the armory, and how he received an assignment of McNeil's claim, and then, as assignee, settled the suit against Opdyke for said claim; and out of the amount received on so settling witness indemnified himself, remainder belonging to McNeil.

John W. Keene, foreman of the factory, testified in great detail to the cost of the guns, and the mode of making out the claim, which he said "was just and true: I would swear on it till I was blind." Witness further testified to the omission of some items of interest, material, royalty, &c., not charged against the city when they might have been, and to the impossibility of replacing the machinery in less than nine months or for less than thirty-five per cent over the cost of that burned; and that the burned machinery would have sold for more than was charged the city for it.

MONDAY, Dec. 19.—Wm. F. Brooks testified that he procured the gun contract from Government, and received for the patentees the royalty due them on the guns made. The whole amount he had so received when the riot took place was $11,068, and there was due and claimed from the city $13,107 beside. Witness finally took $5,000 in full, but did not when doing so know that the city had paid what the Government would have paid if all the guns had been completed. Amor J. Williamson was sworn, and gave an account of his agency in the arrangement between Opdyke and Andrews for securing Andrews the Surveyorship of the port of New-York, in consideration of $10,000 to be levied by Andrews on his clerks toward paying expenses of electing Opdyke to be Mayor. Witness also narrated the subsequent quarrel between Opdyke and McNeil, and testified that after McNiel sued Opdyke for money due, he accepted for discontinuing the suit just what he had been offered before bringing it. Robert C. Hutchings, Assistant-District-Attorney, sworn; he took testimony on riot claims for the Committee of the Board of Supervisors. Farley, Opdyke's son-in-law and partner, presented the gun claim, and said that he was "the entire owner" of it. Witness's testimony seemed to intimate that the amount of the claim as allowed was fixed in deference to Mr. Blunt's opinion, and that over $1,000 was struck off the amount, leaving $199,700, simply because all other claims allowed had been reduced, and it would look ill not to have this reduced too. Elijah F. Purdy, one of the Claim Committee, testified that the Committee had great confidence in Mr. Blunt's judgment on this gun claim and its justice, and that it was reduced because other claims had been. Witness also testified that he saw nothing to censure in Mr. Opdyke's relations to this claim; that he did not hear in Committee that Opdyke's interest in the claim was other than as father-in-law of Farley. On cross-examination, Mr. Purdy said his impression was that Mr. Opdyke spoke to him of having "a very large interest in the claim; also, that he was excited when the claim was passed, not liking the way the thing occurred. Smith Ely, a Supervisor, testified that the claim was reduced because other claims had been.

TUESDAY, Dec. 20.—John Keyser testified to some circumstances connected with the payment of the Custom House assessment to Opdyke. Mr. Ex-Collector Barney was sworn, and testified to his requiring the proper political committee treasurers to indorse over the checks paid to Opdyke, and to the mode of assessing Custom-House clerks. Gilbert S. Young testified to his operating in the Seventh and Seventeenth Wards to see whether Mr. Weed was trying to defeat Opdyke through the police, and to having notified Custom House officers who had not paid their assessment, to pay it. H. D. Stover was sworn, and testified in much detail to the items charged against the city in the gun claim, showing from 7 to 25 per cent excessive valuation; and he also contradicted some previous testimony, testifying that used machinery was not worth as much as unused, but only about two-thirds as much. He also denied that machinery had materially risen in value at the time of the fire; estimated the value of the machinery, tools, &c., in the Armory at the fire at not over $33,000, whereas it is charged at $97,000. Lucius H. Gibbs testified that he had said to several parties that in the claim for $190,000 "there was a large swindle." A correspondence between Senator Harris and Mr. Opdyke was ruled out as evidence. It consisted of a letter from Mr. Harris, disapproving Mr. Weed's libel; one from Mr. Opdyke, in reply, published in an Albany paper, Oct. 12, 1863, and another from Mr. Harris approving of the published letter except one paragraph.

XXXVIIIth CONGRESS—Second Session.

SENATE, Dec. 19.—Petitions were presented for the abolition of Slavery, of colored troops for increase of pay, for the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty, from assistant-paymasters to have the rank and pay of Navy lieutenants. Mr. Wilson offered a bill to enable aliens who have served in the army or navy to become citizens. Mr. Foot was, at his own request, relieved from service on the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Hale was, at his request, relieved from service on the Committee on the District of Columbia. A bill was introduced and referred creating the rank of Vice-Admiral. Mr. Doolittle introduced a resolution authorizing the President to expend $10,000,000, or as much as necessary, to build fortifications and floating batteries for the protection of the lakes and land frontiers from piratical and hostile expeditions organized in British territories. In the evening discussion, on referring the resolution, Mr Howard argued that the United States ought to show its power on the frontier and express its sentiments on the recent raids from Canada, with a view to prevent future similar outrages; Mr. Johnson asserted our right to pursue such raiders into territory adjoining ours; Mr. Doolittle, while deprecating war, argued that we ought to be ready for whatever may in future be necessary to prevent such raids, even for war itself; Mr. Sumner claimed that the St. Albans outrage was a Rebel device to embroil us with Great Britain, and exhorted to prudence, as a means of preventing their success. Mr. Sherman adduced the facts about other outrages on lake vessels, whose perpetrators were freed by the Canadian authorities, described the deep dissatisfaction on the subject and about the Reciprocity Treaty along the northern frontier, and regretted the President's modification of Gen. Dix's order. Mr. Sumner replied, adducing Gen. Halleck's authority against Phillmore's which has been quoted to support that order. Mr. Grimes spoke in favor of repealing the Reciprocity Treaty. The resolution was finally referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. A number of bills and resolutions were introduced, among them these: For a State Government in Colorado; to pay for supporting refugee Indians; calling for Gen. Herron's report of his doings in Arkansas; to inquire into the arrest of Kentucky State officers; to reimburse Missouri for war expenses; to protect Missouri from invasion; to remove the color disqualification for mail-carriers (passed, 21 to 5); to free wives and children of negro soldiers (debated until adjournment); to create the grade of Vice-Admiral. Adjourned.

HOUSE, Dec. 19.—Bills were introduced and referred to increase the pay of midshipmen; to create the rank of Vice Admiral; prescribing an oath for persons in U. S. courts; to define the commutation value of army rations; for a Navy-yard at Chicago; granting lands for railroads in Michigan; declaring which States are not entitled to representation in the Electoral College; for the preservation of harbors on the lakes; to establish a Mining Department. Mr. Davis of Maryland called up the resolution reported by him on Thursday, and which the House then tabled, declaring that Congress has the constitutional right to an authoritative voice in declaring and prescribing the foreign policy of the United States, and that it is the duty of the Executive Department to respect that voice, &c. After a brief debate, Mr. Farnsworth moved to lay the resolution on the table. Disagreed to 49 to 73. The first part of the resolution was agreed to, 118 to 8, as follows:

"That Congress has a constitutional right to an authoritative voice in declaring and prescribing the foreign policy of the United States, as well as in the recognition of new powers and other things; and it is the constitutional duty of the Executive Department to respect that policy not less in diplomatic negotiations than in the use of the national force when authorized by law."

YEAS—Messrs. William J. Allen, Alley, Allison, Ames, Ancona, Anderson, Arnold, Baldwin (Mich.), Baldwin (Mass.), Baxter, Beaman, Bliss, Blow, Boyd, Brandagee, Brooks, Broomall, Brown (Wis.), Chanler, A. W. Clark, Cobb, Coffroth, Cox, Cravens, Creswell, Davis (Md.), Davis (N. Y.), Dawes, Dawson, Denison, Deming, Dixon, Driggs, Eckley, Eden, Edgerton, Eldridge, Farnsworth, Frank, Finck, Ganson, Garfield, Grider, Griswold, Hale, Harding, Herrington, Hall, Harris, Herrick, Higby, Holman, Hubbard (Iowa), Hubbard (Ct.), Jencks, Kasson, Kelley, Kellogg (N. Y.), Kernan, Knapp, Knox, Law, Lazear, Longyear, Leblond, Mallory, Marcy, Marvin, McClurg, McDowell, McIndoe, McKinney, Miller (N. Y.), Moorhead, Morrill, Morris (Ohio), Amos Myers, Leonard Myers, Nelson, Noble, O'Neill (Pa.), O'Neill (Ohio), Orth, Patterson, Perry, Pike, Price, Pruyn, Randall (Pa.), Randall (Ky.), Rice (Mass.), Rice (Me.), Rollins (N.H.), Ross, Schenck, Scofield, Shannon, Sloan, Smithers, Spalding, Steele (N. Y.), Stevens, Strouse, Stuart, Sweat, Thayer, Thomas, Townsend, Tracy, Upson, Voorhees, Wadsworth, Washburne (Ill.), Whaley, Joseph W. White, Williams, Wilson, Windom—118.

NAYS—Messrs. Blaine, Boutwell, Cole, Kellogg (Mich.), Littlejohn, Pomeroy, Smith, Van Valkenburg—8.

The question was next put on agreeing to the second branch of the resolution, viz.:

And the propriety of any declaration of any foreign policy by Congress is sufficiently proved by the vote which pronounces it, and such proposition, while pending and undetermined, is not a fit topic for diplomatic explanation with any foreign power.

Mr. BROOMALL moved to lay this clause on the table, but the question was decided in the negative, by a vote of 61 against 66.

The latter branch of the resolution was then agreed to by a vote of 67 yeas against 58 nays, as follows [Democrats in italic]:

YEAS—Messrs. *Wm. J. Allen*, Allison, Ames, *Ancona*, *Anderson*, *Baldwin* (Mich.), Baxter, *Bliss*, Blow, Boyd, *Chanler*, *Coffroth*, *Cox*, *Cravens*, Davis (Md.), *Dawson*, *Denison*, *Eden*, *Eldridge*, *Finck*, *Ganson*, Garfield, *Grider*, Griswold, *Herrington*, *Harris* (Ill.), *Herrick*, Higby, *Holman*, Hubbard (Iowa), Jencks, *Kernan*, *Knapp*, *Law*, *Lazear*, *Le Blond*, *Mallory*, *Marcy*, *McDowell*, *McKinney*, Moorhead, Morrill, *Morris* (O.), *Nelson*, *Noble*, *O'Neill* (O.), Orth, *Pendleton*, *Perry*, Price, *Pruyn*, *Randall* (Pa.), *Ross*, Schenck, Scott, *Sloane*, Smithers, *Steele* (N. Y.), Stevens, *Strouse*, *Stuart*, *Sweat*, Townsend, *Voorhees*, *Wadsworth*, *Jos. W. White*, *Williams*—(Union, 21; Dem. 46.)

NAYS—Messrs. Alley, *Bailey*, Baldwin (Mass.), Beaman, Blair, Boutwell, Brandagee, Broomall, A. D. Clark, Cobb, Cole, Creswell, Davis (N. Y.), Dawes, Dixon, Driggs, Eckley, Eliot, Frank, Grinnell, Hale, Hotchkiss, Hubbard (Ct.), Hulburd, Kasson, Kelley, Kellogg (Mich.), Kellogg (N. Y.), Littlejohn, Marvin, McBride, McClurg, McIndoe, Amos Myers, Leonard Myers, O'Neill (Pa.), Patterson, Perham, Pike, Pomeroy, Rice (Mass.), Rice (Me.), Rollins (N. H.), Scofield, Shannon, Smith, Spalding, Thayer, Thomas, Tracy, Upson, Van Valkenburg, Washburne (Ill.), Washburn (Mass.), Whaley, Wilson, Windom, Yeaman. (Union, 56; Dem. 2.)

Mr. Stevens reported from the Committee of Ways and Means a bill substituting the word "January" for the word "February" in the fifty-fifth section of the revenue act of 1864, and providing that in addition to the duty now imposed by law, all spirits of domestic production held for sale on January 1, 1865, shall be subject to a duty of forty cents per gallon. Messrs. Stevens and Morrill explained that while the committee approved of altering the time, they merely reported the additional whisky tax in obedience to the resolution of the House, but which they desired to be stricken out. Mr. Washburne appealed to the House to put on the additional tax. Mr. Morrill moved to strike out the additional whisky tax; agreed to, 65 to 60.

YEAS—Messrs. Ames, *Ancona*, Ashley, *Bailey*, *Bliss*, Blow, Boyd, *Brooks*, Broomall, Freeman Clark, *Cox*, *Cravens*, Davis (Md.), Davis (N. Y.), *Denison*, *Eldridge*, *Finck*, Garfield, *Grider*, Griswold, *Hall*, *Herding*, *Herrington*, *Harris* (Ill.), *Holman*, Cooper, Kasson, Kelly, *Law*, *Lazear*, *Leblond*, *Long*, Longyear, *Mallory*, *Marcy*, McBride, McIndoe, Morrill, *Morris* (O.), L. Myers, *Noble*, O'Neill (Pa.), *O'Neill* (O.), Orth, Patterson, *Pendleton*, *Perry*, Pike, Pomeroy, *Pruyn*, *Randall* (Pa.), Rice (Mass.), *Scott*, Shannon, Smith, Smithers, Stevens, *Strouse*, *Stuart*, Thayer, Townsend, Van Valkenburg, *Elijah Ward*, *Yeaman*—65. (Union, 31; Dem., 34.)

NAYS—Messrs. *W. J. Allen*, Alley, Anderson (Mich.) Baxter, Beaman, Blair, Boutwell, Brandagee, *Brown* (Wis.), *Chandler*, A. W. Clark, Cobb, *Coffroth*, Cole, Creswell, Dawes, *Dawson*, Deming, Dixon, Eckley, *Eden*, Eliot, Frank, *Ganson*, Grinnell, Hotchkiss, Hubbard (Conn.), Hulbard, Jenckes, Kellogg (Mich.), Kellogg (N. Y.), *Kernan*, Knox, Littlejohn, McClurg, *Miller* (N. Y.), Moorhead, A. Myers, Perham, Price, Randall (Ky.), Rice (Me.), Rollins (N. H.), *Rollins* (Mo.), Ross, Scofield, Sloan, Spalding, *Steele* (N. Y.), Upson, *Wadsworth*, Washburne (Ill.), Washburne (Mass.), Williams, Wilson and Windom.—60. (Union 47, Democrats 13.)

The bill was then passed with the tax stricken out, and merely changing the time from February to January. Mr. Spalding made a speech in support of the views in the President's message. Adjourned.

SENATE, Dec. 20.—Petitions were presented for more pay for subsistence department and other army officers; also, from Sisters of Charity, for remission of duties on their uniforms. A bill was introduced to allow the Washington Gas Company to charge "the average price charged at the capitals of Maryland, Pennsylvania, New-Jersey and New-York." Postponed. A bill was referred to the Military Committee, providing for additional cadets and severer studies at West Point. The bill to create the naval rank of Vice-Admiral was passed; his pay to be $7,000 when at sea, and his rank to be first in the navy, corresponding to that of Lieutenant-General. Mr. Sumner reported a substitute for the House resolution to terminate the Reciprocity Treaty, being a joint resolution to give notice of discontinuing it. Ordered printed. Mr. Wilkinson offered a resolution calling for treating Rebel prisoners as they treat ours. Mr. Johnson objecting, it lay over, and was afterward referred to the Military Committee. Mr. Powell's resolution asking the President to tell the cause of arresting Lieut.-Gov. Jacobs and Col. Wolford was amending by inserting "if not incompatible with the public interest," and passed. Mr. Wilson called up the joint resolution to free wives and children of colored soldiers. Mr. Davis opposed the plan, because, he said, it takes private property for public use without compensation. Before the debate ended, the House's non-concurrence in the Senate's amendment to the Freedmen's Affairs Bureau bill was announced, the Senate united and appointed a Committee of Conference, and, after an executive session, adjourned.

HOUSE, 20th.—A committee was raised to see if the Government expense for pensions cannot be lessened. A resolution was adopted that the Military Committee inquire about treating Rebel prisoners as the Rebels treat ours. Inquiries were ordered about making written instruments valid where no stamps has been affixed, and about setting apart public lands for disabled soldiers. The resolution to adjourn over from Thursday, the 22d, to January 5th, was agreed to. The deficiency bill was reported, as was that for the annual appropriation to West Point. The consideration of Mr. Ashley's reconstruction bill was postponed to January 17. A bill was passed to equalize with others the allowances to colored soldiers in the army on June 30, 1863. A bill was passed to decrease the extent to which periodicals, magazines and exchanges must pay letter postage. The Senate Vice-Admiral bill was passed, as was a bill to authorize the promotion of any navy or marine officer for gallant conduct, and providing that Capt. Winslow may be made a Commodore, though the list be full. Some time was spent in Committee of the Whole on the President's message, and the House adjourned.

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The Weekly Tribune.

NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21, 1864.

OUR LATE SUCCESSES.

Though we have not yet received Gen. Sherman's account of his march from Atlanta to Savannah, it is abundantly clear that he encountered no serious resistance—not enough to cause him even once to put his army in order of battle. Some scared Georgia militia preceded his advance, taking care to keep well out of gunshot, and a brigade or two of cavalry hung upon his flank and rear, skirmishing cautiously at intervals with his scouting parties or rear-guard, and picking up the few stragglers who fell out of his ranks, unable or unwilling to continue the march. The habitual affectation of reserve by the Rebel organs with regard to Gen. Sherman's position and movements was constrained by their profound ignorance—they carefully refrained from telling what they did not know. When you hear from its adversaries that the movements of a large army are involved in mystery, you may safely conclude that it is meeting no formidable opposition. For a well-appointed army, advancing through a hostile region, chooses to cover a considerable breadth of country, so as to replenish its stores of forage and food, and has its flanks well screened by cavalry, who bar all hostile observation of its batteries and columns of infantry. Formidable resistance soon compels it to concentrate and show its teeth; but the enemy's admission that they do not know exactly where its main body is, implies that they are not resisting its advance. And that is the material fact in this case. Sherman took the capital of Georgia without firing a gun, and might have taken Macon or Augusta had he chosen to be diverted from his direct course to either; but he did not. He has marched through the very heart of the Confederacy—through the most fertile, wealthy and populous portion of 'the Empire State of the South'—and has encountered no opposition worthy of the name. Had a Rebel army advanced fighting from Harper's Ferry through Chambersburg to Harrisburg, thence moving unresisted through Reading, Easton and Trenton to Newark, and there placed itself in free communication with a Rebel fleet in Newark Bay, we should have considered the Union pretty well played out; yet that would have scarcely paralleled Sherman's triumphant progress from Chattanooga to Savannah.

Nearly two years ago, Col. Grierson, after a cavalry raid from the Tennessee to Baton Rouge, pronounced the Confederacy "a shell, with nothing in it." Sherman's parade from Atlanta to Savannah gives emphasis to that characterization.

If we had only room for a reproduction of the bombast that has been the staple of Rebel accounts of Sherman's situation and fortunes since he cut loose from Atlanta—the ominous whispers that the thunderbolt was about to strike him—the whole-cloth fabrications of outrages committed by his troops—the dismal portrayals of the fatigue, discouragement, and demoralization of his forces—the bulletins of fierce battles fought by Wheeler with his cavalry, wherein our troopers were regularly cut up and scattered—the reports that Sherman was hurrying with all his might to take refuge on shipboard at Darien, Brunswick or some other southerly port—the gas importing that tremendous preparations were making to arrest him at some unmentionable point, &c., &c.—the collection would not only be read with amusement, but would serve to throw light on Rebel resources and Rebel rhetoric generally. The Proclamations fired at Gen. S. by Gov. Brown alone would have sufficed to annihilate his whole army if proclamations were cartridges and contained bullets. The calling out *en masse* of the militia and reserves of Georgia and South Carolina—the summoning of Alabama to the aid of her northerly sisters—the spirits called from all manner of vasty deeps—surely, *something* should have been realized from all these devices that should have sufficed to arrest Sherman's march for at least a day. It seems, however, that slaveholding gasconade is to be taken with even more than the average discount, though those who fire proclamations in volleys are seldom expected to discharge more substantial missiles.

—The result of Hood's leaguer of Nashville appears even more disastrous than the issue of that warrior's usual undertakings. We cannot doubt that Gen. Sherman, when he parted from Gen. Thomas, directed him to lure Hood's army so far north, and keep it across the Tennessee river so long, as possible. Still, the audacity of laying siege to a fortified city or depot like Nashville, with an army inferior at least numerically, to that of its defenders, and those defenders commanded by a veteran like Thomas, has had no parallel since Lee, with less than 50,000 men, held McClellan's 200,000 spell-bound in front of Washington, overlapping our mighty host on both wings. With Buell at the head of our forces in Tennessee, Hood might safely have passed Nashville and invaded Kentucky; but with Thomas in command, he could prudently do nothing but get out of the neighborhood at the earliest moment. This he was doubtless on the point of doing, if the movement had not already begun, when Thomas decided to force a battle, and thereupon made the movement whose result now electrifies the country.

—Until Hood's account of the fight at Franklin was received, there was a pretext for doubt or cavil as to the reality of our success there; but we see not how there can be any longer. Our army was retreating to concentrate, and, being sharply pressed, was compelled to fight or abandon its trains. Schofield decided to fight, fully aware of the enemy's superiority in numbers, but trusting to the position to enable him to check the Rebel advance until his trains could be safely got away. And the calculation proved a sound one. Though his center was once broken by the great momentum and vehemence of the Rebel charge, it was reformed and the lost ground regained in a counter-charge which gave us nearly a thousand prisoners. On this point, Hood's report is uncandid; but, as he does not claim to have captured a gun nor a wagon, and admits a loss of 3,500 men, including Maj.-Gen. Cleburne and three Brigadiers killed, with as many wounded or captured, it is clear that Schofield's account is the true one. The Rebels were repulsed with fearful loss, and our retreat during the following night was precisely what Schofield had purposed. He had not proposed with two corps to fight a pitched battle with the whole Rebel army; he meant to stop it till he got his trains away; and that he achieved, inflicting a loss at least twice as heavy as he incurred. The Rebels had no officer out of Virginia so effective in a fight as Pat. Cleburne, and his loss cannot well be repaired.

—On the whole, it seems plain that the Rebels are decidedly over-matched, and are going rapidly to the wall. If more soldiers are needed to make a speedy end of the war, we trust the President will not hesitate to call for them promptly and frankly. With 200,000 more men in our armies, the 4th of March next should see Mr. Lincoln inaugurated President of a nation reunited and at peace.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CLERGY AND HUMAN LIBERTY.

We stated, a few weeks since, certain very obvious facts bearing upon the conduct of the Roman Catholic priesthood of this country with regard to Slavery and the Rebellion. Those facts seemed to us so important and significant as to challenge the gravest public attention. That they *are* facts, substantially, has not, so far as we have seen, been directly controverted in any of the strictures which our articles have provoked. Certain Catholic journals intimate that making such statements is on our part impolitic, which is quite possible, and that our party will suffer for them, which may or may not be so. Some impute to us proscriptive and sectarian impulses which we utterly disclaim. We have had ten articles arraigning the conduct regarding Slavery of the Protestant ecclesiastics of this country for every one that even alluded to their Catholic fellow-craftsmen. We have no shadow of desire to exalt one Church at the expense of another, nor to excite prejudice against any. We call attention to the shortcomings of the Roman Catholic priesthood respecting Liberty and Slavery, in the hope of inciting to reform. We mean that European Catholics shall know the fact that their American brethren to-day form the chief bulwark of the Man-owning, Woman-selling "institution" in this country. We hope to evoke remonstrances and counteraction from the Montalemberts and Dupanloups of the Old World: at all events, we shall try, and can at the worst but fail. Let us call their attention to a few additional facts:

I. The State of Maryland was first lawfully settled by a Catholic colony, whose chief enjoys the high honor of having been the first to found a settlement in America on the proclaimed basis of perfect toleration for all forms of Christian faith and polity. Several of its lower counties are largely if not preponderantly peopled by native Catholics, and the Catholic is one of the strongest denominations in the State, not only in numbers but in wealth. That State has just shaken off the incubus of Slavery, after an earnest, protracted struggle wherein nine-tenths of her Catholic people (native as well as Irish-born), and we believe *all* her Catholic clergy, have stood for Slavery throughout.

Now it serves no end here to babble of "Democracy" and "standing by the Democratic party;" for the native Catholics of Maryland were mainly Federalists under Washington and Adams, anti-Jackson at a later day, and Whigs of the school of Clay and Taylor. All their instincts, traditions, leanings, are *against* partisan Democracy; yet they have since 1860 gone solid for what is called the Democratic ticket, because, and only because, that is the side of Slavery. They have no other affinity with what calls itself Democracy.

II. Missouri was likewise first settled under Catholic auspices, and Slavery thus planted on its soil while it was still a dependency of Spain. She, too, has had a terrible struggle with the rebellious fiend, which she has very nearly exorcised, and which she will ere long have utterly cast out. But, throughout this struggle, the great body of her Catholics, and especially of their priests, have been, as they still are, on the side of Slavery and its adjuncts, resisting Emancipation, and thus affording aid and comfort to the Rebellion. Missouri will soon be a Free State; but in spite of her Catholic priests rather than by means of their exertions.

III. In all the wide region controlled by the Rebels, we have never yet heard of one Catholic priest who was not on their side, recognizing their functionaries as "the powers that be" who are "ordained of God." The Archbishop of Charleston is now the Confederate envoy at the Papal Court, where he has elicited the only plain recognition of Mr. Jefferson Davis as a chief magistrate that has been accorded by any European government. But when territory reverts from the Rebels to the Union, (as in the case of New-Orleans, which we have held uncontested for nearly three years,) we hear of no instance in which its Catholic priesthood considers *our* authorities as "the powers that be" whom they are religiously bound to respect and defer to; on the contary, they generally remain bitterly, though not demonstratively, Rebel. And, whereas all the Catholic clergy within the Rebel lines are active Rebels, we know of scarcely one under the Union flag who is any more loyal than the law requires him to be. As a body, their influence discourages enlistments in our armies and tends to enfeeble and paralyze the prosecution of the War.

—Are these statements disputed? Is it denied that the Empire just established in Mexico, in defiance of the undisguised repugnance and the traditional policy of this country, is under special Papal blessing and guidance?—that its Emperor visited Rome on purpose to obtain them prior to setting foot on the soil of the New World? Does any one doubt that the crippling of the power of the United States, through the triumph of the Slaveholders' Rebellion, is among the means whereby the success of that experiment is expected—at Rome as well as elsewhere—to be assured?

SLAVERY GIVEN OVER—THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

We give elsewhere, by telegraph from Washington, the gist of a most important leader from *The Richmond Enquirer* of last Friday, calling on the Confederate authorities to abolish Slavery and attempt to save the Rebellion by filling up the ranks of its armies with negroes. "*Gen. Lee* asks that this experiment be made," says *The Enquirer*; and a paragraph not contained in our dispatch states that this request had been made in a letter to the Hon. W. Porcher Miles of S. C., Chairman of the House Military Committee. It is therefore clear that the Rebel Generalissimo not only perceives but admits that the Slaveholders' Rebellion is played out—that, unless it can be propped up by negro bayonets, and thus made a matter of miscegenation, its collapse and downfall are imminent.

Simultaneously with the appearance of this "sign of woe" from Richmond, the Copperhead oracle in our City gives formal warning that Slavery is overboard—that its Northern servitors in the past must now stand from under, or be buried beneath its ruins. In a leader exhorting its disciples to devote their attention and their efforts to matters of Finance, *The World* says:

> "One reason why the thoughts of the party should be turned into this channel is that it involves questions which cannot grow obsolete with the lapse of time, while some of the issues in the late election may. Before another Presidential Election the Abolition question, for example, *will probably be in such a state that past ideas will not apply*. As the problem *advances toward its predetermined solution*, we shall see public opinion more and more disposed to *acquiesce in the manifest tendency of events*. Before the expiration of its new lease of power the Republican party will have secured a constitutional amendment for the entire extirpation of Slavery in the United States. If the South should, meanwhile, gain its independence, Slavery can be no longer a question of Federal politics; but if we disarm Southern resistance, the anti-Slavery amendment will have been put in force and have done its work before the Democratic party can be in power. *Why should the party bind itself to a dead corpse?*
>
> "Unless the Democratic party is blind enough to run the hazard of disintegration, it must distinguish between *questions virtually settled* and questions that still remain open. It must so far keep pace with events as to accept their logic. Public opinion has no efficiency without political combination; but for masses large enough to form a majority to act in concert, thought must be left free on all questions save those which rank as living, vital issues. The number who oppose the Abolition of Slavery (now a minority) *is not likely to grow larger, but to grow less*, with the progress of time. Every Democrat can, of course, hold whatever opinion he chooses on that subject. Such opinions are no longer of the slightest political consequence. Individual Democrats will think what they please; but the subject must be dismissed from the range of topics on which *the party* is expected to have distinctive views. There is no conceivable position on the Slavery question *on which the Democratic party can plant itself and become a majority*. Its antecedents and associations, as well as its respect for the Constitution as it stands, forbid it to become an Abolition party; the progress of events and the tendency of public opinion, as well as the Constitution in the form into which it *is certain to be amended*, *forbid it to commit itself to the fortunes of a moribund institution*."

—Whatever may be said of the morality or chivalry of the above extract, its sagacity is undeniable. Slavery is in the article of death; it would be rather a good joke if the Rebels should get rid of it before we do; but they are very likely to do it. And, once fairly coffined, it will have a smaller and dryer-eyed following of mourners than any illustrious criminal who has preceded it on the way to "the house appointed for all the living." Thousands shallowly presume that the South is a unit in fanatical devotion to its giant curse; when, to say nothing of the negroes, there never was a time when a very large proportion of the Southern Whites, including their wisest and best, did not feel and know that Slavery was their bane and curse. But the slaveholders held the reins of power; they could and did smother expression but not thought; so the car of Juggernaut rolled on, over prostrate, crushed, inwardly shuddering while volubly adoring multitudes. Slavery once admitted to be dead, the secrets of that giant prison-house will be revealed, and thousands will learn that those whom they have regarded as idolaters of the Southern Moloch, were at heart its deadly foes all along.

No sane person ever can have believed Slavery in accord with the Golden Rule, but millions have fancied it personally advantageous. Some derived a pecuniary profit from their relation to it; others deemed it the ladder whereon they climbed to social eminence. It was on this ground that the Southern women became more fanatical in their devotion to it than their husbands and brothers; women being, as a class, more aristocratic—that is, placing a higher value on social distinction—than men. It is quite probable that the sincerest and most persistent contemners of Emancipation will be found among the white half-sisters of those whom it makes free. But, Slavery once dead, the great bulk of our native-born doughfaces will protest that they never believed in nor favored it—that they only stood up for the Union and the Constitution. And, so that we have Freedom, Union and Peace, we shall not be inclined to controvert their assertions on a point which will have become wholly immaterial.

A DIVIDED HOUSE.

Brown and Davis are having it out. Brown is only a Governor, and Davis is a President (of a certain sort). For all that, Brown considers himself to be as big as Davis, and Georgia just a trifle larger than all the rest of the Confederate States put together. Davis thinks Brown his subordinate—Brown thinks quite the contrary; Davis deems little Georgia to be subject to the legislation of his Congress, while Brown, bursting with extreme hatred of consolidation, and pining for a fresh bolt, defies Davis and all his minions, and exhibits an irrepressible passion for setting up in business on his own hook. Davis calls for the Georgia militia, without distinction of age; Brown, as generalissimo of these braves, commands them not to budge one inch. Of outsiders some espouse the cause of Davis, and others give their hearts and hands to Brown; and the quarrel having reached the Congress, much babble has ensued, and even bloodshed of the forensic variety may be expected. In the meanwhile patriotic editors view this intestinal broil with alarm, and howl at the prospect of probable damage.

The simple truth appears to be that Brown and his friends have had more of Mr. Davis than they can placidly stomach. The head of the Rebels is denounced as "a despot," bent upon "the annihilation of the last vestige of State sovereignty." Davis wants a law allowing him to appoint the editors of newspapers, and prohibiting any one from engaging in that highly respectable calling without written permission had and obtained. Where are we living? cries Brown. Are we residing in Turkey? ejaculates Brown. "Even the Lincoln Government," asserts Brown, "despotic as it is, has not dared to attempt any such encroachment upon the liberties of the people of the United States." "It is monstrous," writes Brown, and backs up his statement by signing his name to it at full length—Joseph E. Brown!

Without wishing to impertinently interfere in this mighty contest, we must admit that the weight of our sympathies is with Brown. If we understand the object of the Rebellion, it is liberty for White Folks. If we comprehend the political philosophy of the Confederacy, it is that every man, being of age and of a bleached cuticle, has a right to say what he pleases, do what he sees fit to do, obey the laws or disobey them at his private will and pleasure, and, under his own vine and fig-tree, flog his own "nigger" without magisterical hinderance. This being the case, we do not see why every editor should not edit his own newspaper. Davis does not think so. The Emperor of Austria does not think so. Here is a striking resemblance between Davis and the Emperor of Austria. We sympathize with Brown—not the Emperor of Austria.

The "President" Davis, if we understand the matter, proposes to take upon his own shoulders and those of his agents the sole business of editing newspapers in his model commonwealth. He asks for a law empowering him at any time to depose, dethrone, and, maybe, decapitate the genuine, original editor, and to put in his place some gifted and knee-crooking creature of his own. Nor is this all. Heretofore the men of the newspapers, in consideration of their cheering and rousing and stimulating productions, have been exempted from military duty. Now they are not only to be deposed but drafted. They must lay down the pen and the shears, and take up the musket and the saber. They must pass from bloody theory to gory practice, and no longer indulge in the dulcet consolation of slaughtering the knavish Yankees in the abstract! Imagine the consternation in the Richmond sanctums!

Nor must Mr. Davis's refinement of despotism pass unobserved. He snatches an editor who is so unfortunate as to displease him from the embraces of his beloved journal; he marches him off to the cruel wars; and, to clap the climax of indignity, he puts a stranger in the place of this victim of compulsory abdication. He delivers over to the interloper the inkstand, shears, pens, paste-pot, and all the remaining utensils of the proscribed. He confiscates, as it were, his types, presses, and other paraphernalia of the craft. He causes the newspaper to say things complimentary to himself, and abhorrent to the soul of the lawful proprietor. This ill-starred individual, no longer left to superintend his machines, thus grossly perverted from their original purpose, is cursing and swearing his soul out in the camp, eating little or nothing, and drinking only water—marched here and there, his brains, which are his only remaining stock in trade, extremely exposed, and his very legs, upon which in a time of emergency he must solely rely, liable at any moment to be rendered useless by the sharpshooters and the surgeons. It is a pitiable case. No wonder the Governor of Georgia is righteously indignant!

"The Confederacy is already feeling the evil effects of an ideal Union which shall in no way trench upon the personality of the States, this requiring as nearly as possible, in theory, absolute independence and a practical ignoring of the copartnership whenever convenient. Mr. Davis's nation, with all its bluster of nationality, is already upon its knees begging the States for recruits, and at least in the case of Georgia, it is contemptuously denied the boon. The Confederate Senate had before it, on the 2d inst., a joint resolution proposing the appointment of a special committee to "memorialize the Governors of States and the State Legislatures in reference to the exemption of able-bodied men for State purposes." Mr. Graham of North Carolina saw at once the mischief which the resolution might do, and protested against it. "It would," he said, "get up a quarrel which would do much harm." Resolution or no resolution, we are satisfied that the quarrel will come, at no very distant period. The Confederacy is bound together only by a rope of sand. The fugitive States have taken into it the same selfish ends, the same uncomfortable passions, the same acrid jealousies, the same sleepless suspicions, which made them in the old Union unreasonable associates and continually troublesome neighbors. The Davis and Brown feud cannot fail to extend itself. The mischievous doctrine of secession, to which the Confederacy owes its existence, will prove fatal to it in the end.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY PARTY IN MISSOURI.

No State of the Union so far exceeded, at the late November election, the expectations of the most sanguine Unionists as Missouri. Before the election many cautious members of our party placed Missouri among the doubtful States, and after the election THE TRIBUNE, in its first estimate of the Union majorities, set down Missouri for 5,000. The returns from the State are now nearly all in, and they conclusively show that our triumph in the State was much more complete than any leading newspaper in the country (Missouri itself not excepted) had anticipated.

Up to the 8th inst., the official returns of 92 counties—all but eight—had been received at the State office in Jefferson City. The aggregate vote for Mr. Lincoln, in the 92 counties, is 63,639, and for McClellan, 29,050. The overwhelming majority of the Radical party in both branches of the State Legislature, and in the Convention which is to meet in January for the purpose of revising the Constitution, may be seen from the fact that among the 92 counties from which official returns had been received only 13 have given Copperhead and pro-Slavery majorities, while all the others will be represented by men who are pledged to the support of the principles of the Radical party of Missouri, which in some respects are even more radical than the Baltimore platform. And there are counties in Missouri which not only show larger Union gains than can be found in any of the Northern States—this might be said of nearly every county in Missouri—but which show larger Radical majorities than can be found in either Massachusetts, Vermont, or Kansas. We speak not of those counties which cast a comparatively small vote in consequence of the sympathizers with rebellion not being allowed to vote, but of counties which polled a nearly full vote, as compared with the election of 1860. The following are a few signal instances:

Counties.	1864. Lincoln.	1864. McClellan.	1860. Lincoln.	1860. All others.
Iron	535	2	108	579
Macon	1757	13	134	2245
Putnam	1292	47	111	1205

There is, of course, not the least doubt that the Convention which will meet in January will by an overwhelming majority declare in favor of immediate and uncompensated abolition of Slavery. Nor can we entertain the least doubt, in view of the Radical majorities in most of the counties, that the measure will be ratified by the popular vote.

But Missouri will not long be satisfied with this new abolition of Slavery. One of the most gifted and the most influential among the leaders of the Radical party, Senator Gratz Brown, has boldly declared that the right of suffrage belongs to all persons without distinction of color, who have not forfeited it by criminal conduct; for instance, by participation in the Rebellion. Gratz Brown is not, as some of his enemies have charged upon him, in favor of giving *immediately* the right of suffrage to every freedman, for he expressly reserves "temporary and transitory stages of qualification." But he strongly urges the recognition of the *principle* that men should not be excluded from the right of voting on account of their color.

Missouri, as was to be expected, has been profoundly agitated by Gratz Brown's manifesto. The organs of the Union party in St. Louis are mostly opposed to any discussion of this subject by the approaching State Convention. They urge against it that the Convention has no mandate from the people to deal with this question, and that any step taken toward giving the right of suffrage to the negroes might jeopard the ratification by the popular vote of the new Constitution. It is also reported that the Presidential Electors, in their meeting on the 8th of December, took an informal vote on the subject, and declared themselves unanimously against it.

But although opposed to any legislation on the subject at the present time, many of the Radical leaders declare themselves openly in favor of the principle, and several express the opinion that on that question the Radical party of Missouri already is, or soon will be, a unit.

At all events, it seems certain that Missouri will not be disgraced by such Black Laws as unfortunately still exist in some of the States of the North-West. On the contrary, she bids fair soon to take her place, by the side of Vermont, Kansas and Massachusetts, in the battles for universal freedom and the equality of rights for all.

THE DIFFICULTY WITH CANADA.

The Montreal Witness expresses great satisfaction in recording "the unanimity of public opinion in that city in condemning the conduct of Judge Coursol and Captain Lamothe in the matter of the raiders, especially the giving back of the money." As far as we can learn from our Canadian exchanges this sentiment of dissatisfaction with Judge Coursol's decision is shared by nearly the entire press. The papers whose opinion regarding our war has not been misled by hatred to our institutions and sympathy with the Rebels, declare themselves very strongly on this point. Thus *The Toronto Globe* says of Coursol that "he is either a knave or a fool; the most incompetent of magistrates or the greatest scoundrel between the two oceans." But even papers which are so thoroughly identified with the Rebel cause, as *The Toronto Leader*, admit that the Judge "committed a very serious blunder" and hope that "dispassionate foreigners will place the whole blame upon the fallibility of the Judge, to which alone it is traceable."

Loud calls are made for the immediate dismissal of Coursol. *The Globe* demands that "he ought not to be kept in the important position which he holds," and *The Montreal Witness* insists that if "the Government acquiesces in the conduct of the stipendiary magistrate by retaining him, it will be fully responsible for the whole transaction from first to last."

The order of Gen. Dix, of course, is not liked. *The Toronto Leader* undertakes, with many other papers, to show by quotations from American and other standard works on international law, that the order is unjustified; but, after the article had been written, the writer received the number of THE N. Y. TRIBUNE which showed that Phillimore expressly provides for such steps as are prescribed by Gen. Dix, and *The Leader* is fair enough to admit that "this extract bears more directly upon the case of the St. Albans raiders" than any of those its article has previously quoted. In reply, it is true, *The Leader* pleads, that the Canadian Government cannot be charged with any *unwillingness* to prevent raids from Canada into the United States, but in reading over the extract from Phillimore once more, *The Leader* will find that Phillimore regards the invaded State as warranted in crossing the frontier, not only, if the executive of the conterminous State is *unwilling* to prevent raids, but also when it is *unable* to do so.

All the Canadian papers are aware of the excitement which the decision of Coursol has produced in the United States. The accounts of this excitement have made a deep impression. The leading champions of the Rebel cause are the loudest in warning the Rebels against attempting any other raid and in calling upon the Government to employ the necessary force to prevent them, if attempted. We presume the Canadian Government has already taken action upon the subject and is in communication with our own in regard to it. The rescinding of that portion of Gen. Dix's order authorizing the pursuit of invaders across the frontier, is probably in consequence of assurances from the Canadian authorities that no such invasion will be permitted in future, and that those attempting it will be held to a rigid accountability for thus inaugurating war between the two countries.

CONSERVATIVE INFLUENCE OF A NATIONAL BANKRUPT LAW.

There are many cautious, conservative minds that shrink from the support and incline to deprecate the passage of a National Bankrupt Law, fearing that its success would render Speculation rampant and inaugurate a general recklessness of pecuniary obligation. As we cherish an opposite view, we beg them to consider the matter in the light of the following suggestions, which have at least the merit of having stood the test of years of reflection and consideration.

Credit is one of the most beneficent of human inventions, but, like most good things, deplorably abused and perverted. Thousands of thousands run in debt here with a facility and to an amount utterly unprecedented in other lands. A stripling who has 'clerked it' a few years in a country store, accumulating thereby a suit of broadcloth and a gold watch, bores a few letters of vague commendation out of good-natured townsmen, and starts with them to some emporium for a stock of goods. One jobber concludes to trust him thereon with a few hundred dollars' worth of goods that he is anxious to sell and is allowed to charge his own price for; whereupon another concludes that, if A. does it, *he* may; and now C. lets him run a bill with little hesitation, seeing that A. and B. have done so; and thus he goes on, till he has bought $10,000 to $20,000 worth on credit; when there is not a man on earth who would not rather have the goods than the notes he has given for them. Thus he "gets into business," without enough capital to buy a horse and cart, and flourishes away, paying a little here and a little there, getting extensions and buying more goods, till his creditors become tired of his excuses and "shut down" on him, when he collapses, pays ten to forty cents on the dollar, and is all ready to start again, or go into any Oil or Railroad speculation that may be current. Such, without exaggeration, is Mercantile Credit, as it flourished among us for thirty or forty years prior to the breaking out of the Slaveholders' Rebellion.

For the time, this is knocked in the head; but it will break out and rage again so soon as we have Peace. Burnt children do *not* dread the fire; or, if they do, that don't deter other and greener children from poking their fingers into the candle-blaze. Everybody knows that Mercantile Credit has been far too loosely given; but everyone hopes that *he* may somehow avoid his share of the richly deserved penalty of the general wrong; and so the shell is tossed from hand to hand till it explodes and scatters desolation all around.

Hence we have five times as many traders to support as we need or should have, and the prices of goods are correspondingly inflated. Men do a large stroke of business for years who were never worth $1,000 in their lives, and could never have filled a store but for the shocking abuse of Credit, misnamed the Credit System. Hence bankruptcies, enormous and almost universal, resulting from the facts that we have far too many traders, and that men rush into merchandise who are no more fit for it than for Archbishops.

Now we want a National Bankrupt Law to curb and correct this tendency to over-trading based on unsound credit. We want fair notice given to our importers and jobbers that they give credit at their own proper peril—that the law will punish false pretenses like other frauds, and will give all a debtor's assets to his creditors, but nothing more. Men give credit on calculations like these: "This chap has no experience and little or no capital: very likely, he will fail; but he is young and hearty; he has brains, and will learn by experience: by-and-by he will make money, and I will keep track of him till he gets able, and then make him pay the last dime." And we have known clerks admitted as minor partners into great houses which soon after failed, and thus saddled with mountains of debt which pressed them to the earth and kept them under the harrow evermore.

Senators! *you* have it now in your power to put an end to this bad business. Pass the Bankrupt bill, and let it be settled that all creditors can extract from a debtor is all he has—that he cannot mortgage his future earnings in such manner as to disable him for earning the bread of his family. Establish the legal principle that a man can only mortgage his property by running into debt—that he has no legal power to pledge more than he has. Notify wholesale dealers that they give credit henceforth at their peril—that they must depend on the property and the honor of their debtor, and not expect the law's help in grinding their debts out of his bones. If the result shall be (as we hope) that Mercantile Credit is thereby restricted to a third of its former amount, it will be all the better for legitimate Trade, for Industry, and for the Country.

The Canadian Cabinet had an official sitting yesterday on the St. Albans raid case. The members were unanimously of the opinion that Justice Coursol had done wrong. The Attorney-General has ordered the re-arrest of the released rascals.

NEVADA AND THE SANITARY FUND.—Almarin B. Paul, esq., President of the Nevada branch of the United States Sanitary Commission, has issued an address to the citizens of Nevada, in which he refers and dwells upon the good they have done through their contributions to the Sanitary Fair. He says that when peace becomes a peace in fact—when the records of States and Territories, reviewed by future generations to know who sustained and helped the Government in her greatest trial, then the historian will point to Nevada's star and prove by her sanitary contributions that she too was loyal and hail her as the "Liberal and Loyal *Nevada*." He gives the following recapitulation of contributions by the different counties in the State:

	In Gold and Silver.	Value in Currency.
Contributed by Storey	$62,311 26	$112,459 77
Contributed by Lyon	7,705 00	13,820 00
Contributed by Ormsby	7,624 00	13,600 00
Contributed by Esmeralda	6,017 00	10,620 00
Contributed by Douglas	1,684 00	2,975 00
Contributed by Lander	6,000 00	10,650 00
Contributed by Washoe	428 75	761 00
Total	$92,815 01	$164,955 77

Average per voter of the entire Territorial vote, as per Constitutional vote of January, 1864, in gold coin, $8 51; in currency, $15 13.

THE CANADA RAIDERS.

Rebels in Canada—They Await the Decision in the St. Albans Case—Organized Bands for Pillaging on the Frontier—Northern Cities to be Burned—Protection of Incendiaries in case of Capture—Substitutes for Northern Armies.

From Our Special Correspondent.

MONTREAL, Dec. 12, 1864.

There is no country or section in the world wherein, at the present time, so much intelligence concerning the hopes, expectations, designs and prospects of the Rebels can be obtained with a little enterprise, as in Canada. Every town of note, from Quebec to Windsor, teems with Rebels of various grades. Deserters, refugees from the Conscription, fugitives from Johnson's Island, Elmira, and other military prisons, spies, emissaries, and, I like to have said, Peace Commissioners, are, to employ a homely old adage which I once heard used with emphasis, by that devout Christian, Jeff. Davis, "as thick as fiddlers in hell;" and as whisky is always plenty at from three to five cents per glass, instead of five dollars as in Dixie, these gentlemen, from the highest to the lowest, swarm around the hotels and saloons, and are ever exceedingly polite and communicative to every Canadian and sympathizing Northerner who invites them to "take something." Treat them to a few bumpers, and propose the health of Jeff. Davis, or the success of the Confederacy, and you win their confidence, and if at all shrewd may learn more of the condition of things in Rebeldom, and the plans and intentions of the Rebel leaders everywhere, than you can possibly learn from any other source. The information gleaned from them I am persuaded is not less trustworthy because it is usually given under the influence of the strong potations. *In vino veritas*, I have tried this pumping process with so great success that it will require half a dozen letters to recount a tithe of the intelligence I have gathered.

It is an interesting question, and one that is every day asked by reflecting people here, how all these Rebels, several thousands in the aggregate, most of whom are without means, are to live through the Winter. Not one in a hundred could possibly obtain employment, even if so inconsiderable a number could be found willing to perform honest labor for a livelihood. Yet all, to the very humblest, appear to regard their prospects with much complacency.

They are confidently awaiting the result of the proceedings in the case of the St. Albans thieves and murderers, and if the extradition of that villainous gang be denied, they will, encouraged by such decision, and the judicial precedent thus established, rob and plunder, not only "public institutions," but every hamlet and farm-house within their reach on our frontier. They are already licking their jaws like hungry wolves in anticipation of abundant prey. They are organized into gangs like banditti, and only await the release of the St. Albans culprits as a signal for putting into execution a series of nefarious projects too horrid for contemplation.

What the decision in regard to these scoundrels will be, it is useless to conjecture; but it is equally useless to disguise the fact that a majority of the Canadians sympathize with them and hope for their speedy release. Such sympathy is felt not only by men who avowedly approve their acts of robbery and murder, but by many who, if their words may be believed, deprecate and denounce them. This sympathy is not so much the result of friendship for the villains themselves, as of hatred of the people and Government of the United States, which, I regret to say, pervades the Province.

The case of these "raiders," as they are charitably called, will probably be resumed to-morrow. As you are aware, a delay of thirty days was granted to enable them to procure evidence from Richmond to establish, what they claim, that they are Confederate officers and soldiers, and that their acts of plunder and murder at St. Albans were committed under instructions of the Rebel War Department. But I predict that no such evidence—in fact no evidence not accessible when the postponement was prayed for—will be adduced in their behalf.

Of course there will be excuses enough for not producing it. The injured creatures could not communicate with Richmond. The Governor-General of the Province, the stupid, denied their application for a Government messenger to go thither, and the disobliging President of the so-called United States refused to become their agent and send a messenger of his own choice, or even to grant a passport for one of their honest friends, and more than all this, some Yankee beast was brutal enough to arrest the messenger they dispatched on their own hook.

But there is no room to doubt that Young has a commission, but that it was ever sent to him from Richmond is absurd. To my certain knowledge there are Rebel emissaries in this Province who, before they left the Confederacy, were supplied with blank commissions, signed by the Rebel Secretary of War, &c., which they were authorized to confer on such persons as they should think proper. It would only be necessary to fill in a name and date, to give one of these documents the appearance of a genuine commission. In this way scores of vagabonds like Young and his companions have been commissioned to rob and outrage our citizens on the frontier, and, as I have stated, are only waiting to be assured by the discharge of Young & Co. that they need not fear being delivered to the United States for like crimes, to begin their work.

But it is not only by sending gangs of thieves and murderers on the frontier that the Rebels hope to excite terror and consternation among our people. A series of the most diabolical plots ever concocted by fiends in human form, are soon to be executed. The attempt to burn New-York is only a prelude to the grand conflagrations that are expected to follow. A gang of incendiaries are already skulking about Boston, systematically preparing that city for the devouring element. Nothing but the utmost vigilance on the part of the authorities and people will prevent the consummation of their hellish schemes. I am not guessing on this subject, but speak advisedly. You will learn from my private note the source of my information, which for the present it would be manifestly improper to make public.

A Richmond paper, a few days ago, in an ingenious article, ridiculed the idea that the incendiaries at New-York were Rebels; but the public have not forgotten that last Spring *The Richmond Whig*, the organ and property of the Governor of Virginia, and a Rebel officer of high rank, advocated the very schemes that they are now endeavoring to execute. *The Whig* then used this unmistakable language, "A million of dollars would lay in ashes New-York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Washington, and all their chief cities, and the men to do the business may be picked by hundreds in the streets of those very cities. If it should be thought unsafe to use them, there are daring men in Canada, of Morgan's and other commands, who have escaped from Yankee dungeons, and who would rejoice at an opportunity of doing something that would make all Yankeedom howl with anguish and consternation." It then argued that such a mode of warfare would be proper, legitimate and right, and recommended the Government to adopt it, and advises the wealthy citizens to do so in case the Government will not.

And it is the "daring men in Canada of Morgan's and other commands," who have been deputed by the barbarians to apply the torch, to make our women and children howl with anguish and consternation. Here is their headquarters; here they mature their plans, and here they expect to find refuge after executing them. If, after committing arson and murder, they escape here, and are afterward identified and claimed under the Extradition treaty, we shall be told that they are Confederate soldiers, organized like Young & Co., as "Retributors," and that the acts complained of were acts of war in retaliation for the atrocities perpetrated by Hunter, Sheridan, Sherman, and other Union officers. And if any of them fall into the hands of our officers of the law, we may expect to be notified by the Rebel authorities that they are Confederate soldiers, and must be treated as prisoners of war, and that if they are capitally punished, an equal number of our soldiers now held by them as prisoners, will, as a measure of retaliation, suffer the same fate.

Whether these projects are being executed by direction of the Rebel Government or by private enterprise I do not pretend to know; but this I do know, that the vagabonds who are employed to do the work have received assurance from high quarters that if they fall into the hands of our authorities they will receive the protection of their Government.

Before closing, there is another subject to which I wish to advert, and which I trust will invite the attention of Congress. It is the practice and privilege of allowing drafted men to furnish substitutes. There are scores of substitute agents in the states, who employ agents and runners here to trump up mercenaries for their market. There are also Rebel agents here recruiting for the insurgent army; and the latter have found that the easiest and safest way to forward their recruits to the South, is to send them to Baltimore and other points in the North, and let them go as substitutes, and on being sent to the front, desert.

This course is quite agreeable to the recruits, as it enables them to get a double bounty, the second, which is agreed upon by the agent here, for which he gives the recruits a certificate, being paid them when they are mustered into the Rebel service. These mercenaries have little to fear from being afterward captured by our forces, as they are invariably sent to points where, if taken prisoners, they would not be recognized.

Thus it will be seen that our substitute system, taken advantage of by the Rebels, not only deprives us of many soldiers due from the draft, but affords the agents of the enemy here a safe passport and free passage for their recruits to the South.

But it is time for the mail, and I must defer much that I intended to say on this subject for my next letter.

FROM THE NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON.

All About Blockading Wilmington—How it is Managed and Mismanaged—Practical Suggestions for the Improvement of the Same.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ON BOARD U. S. STEAMER OSCEOLA, WILMINGTON BLOCKADE, Nov. 26, 1864.

Let me ask attention to some observations on the Wilmington Blockade—its nature, its difficulties and dangers, its monotony and its excitement.

Wilmington, the port into which and from which much the larger portion of the blockade-running of the war has been done, is situated on the left bank of Cape Fear River, distant respectively from the eastern and western entrances of that river into the Atlantic Ocean, about twenty-four and thirty-two miles.

The eastern entrance is known as New Inlet, and has only been used of late years, the channel having been deepened by a freshet. At the present time the charts give at mean low water eight and nine feet water on the bar, with a rise and fall of four and four and a half feet. At the western entrance the charts give eleven and twelve feet, with a rise of three and four feet. These passages afford the only entrance to, and exit from, the river, and these are the points to be guarded. The western passage is blockaded much the same as the eastern. It is of the blockade off New Inlet that I speak particularly.

The bar here is from half to three-quarters of a mile in width; the main channel from 300 to 500 feet wide. In approaching the entrance to the channel over the bar the course steered is W. by N. ½ N. After crossing the bar there is plenty of water, but the channel changes abruptly and a course of W. S. W. is followed. On passing in, Federal Point is left on the right hand. Upon this point, which is a narrow strip of land, are situated Fort Fisher, a formidable earthwork recently very much strengthened, and daily being made still stronger; another work, nearer the inside of the point, known as the Federal Point Battery, upon which the Rebels are still at work; while between the two are several shore batteries, and a huge mound has been thrown up, mounting two very heavy and long range guns, one a 200-pounder, cast at the Tredegar Works. This is known as the "Mound Fort," and serves also as a beacon, two bright lights being kept upon it at night. In addition to these batteries a series of traverses extend from Fort Fisher up the neck of land; and, facing the Atlantic, several miles up the coast, is the "Half Moon Battery," with an armament of heavy long range guns. There are also earthworks at intervals along the coast, which serve as protection to a movable battery of Whitworth guns. The Rebels are at work every day as busy as beavers in enlarging, improving and strengthening their fortifications.

The fleet stationed off New Inlet consists of six or eight vessels, one or two being absent at a time at Beaufort, coaling, &c. During the day these vessels lie at anchor off the bar in seven or eight fathoms of water, and out of range of the enemy's guns. A sharp lookout is kept, and when any vessel is seen approaching, signal is made by the senior officer for one of the fleet to go out and meet her. As night shuts down, the squadron gets under way and steam into their stations on and around the bar. If the night is clear they are readily seen from the forts, who pay their compliments to them sometimes in very unpleasant proximity. The smaller vessels on the bar have only light armament, and of course cannot cope with the heavy guns of the forts; therefore, when the firing is heavy and continued, the larger vessels open on the forts to draw or divide their attention till the smaller vessels can retire. From the time of going in at nightfall until the fleet leaves at daylight, the most unremitting vigilance is kept up. Lookouts are stationed in different parts of the ship; one of the quartermasters and the officer of the deck keep their glasses to their eyes almost incessantly. The Captain frequently visits the deck, often remaining there with glass in constant requisition, and all peering into the night. None but those who have experienced this sort of life can form any idea of what it is. The wear and tear of one's eyes and the intense strain upon the mental faculties are terrible. There you stand in one position, as is the case with the lookouts, or pace the deck with the officers for hours, intently listening for any sound that can be construed into the dip of paddle-wheels, steadily staring into the black night at nothing, but momently hoping to catch a glimpse of some moving object, to see black smoke or a white wake, straining, straining your eyes as if you would penetrate the darkness and fathom the mysteries beyond. Above all, thinking, what if a blockade-runner should get by; thinking, are those in the other vessels vigilant; thinking, if a pirate should come out and suddenly open fire on you; thinking you hear what you do not hear; thinking you see what you do not see. And so on through the weary watches of the night until the welcome daylight comes, and you look and feel as though you had lived a year in that one night.

It would seem to be next to impossible that any vessel could get out of or into the river under such circumstances; but the feat has been too frequently accomplished, and doubtless will be again and again. Let me explain some of the difficulties. In the first place the public must remember that all nights are not clear, and that the darkest evenings are those selected for running. Again, along the line of the Atlantic coast there is a sandy beach, and outside of that a long line of white breakers varying in hight with the violence of the wind. Beyond the beach the shore is skirted with shrubs and trees, forming a distinct line. Take an averagely clear night, and a low, rakish vessel, like the blockade-runners, without spars, and painted a cross between dirty white and dirty blue, is not discernible against this combination of surf, beach and trees. Occasionally, with a very good glass, the vessel's wake can be seen. With a smoky atmosphere, or a hazy horizon, and particularly with a low bank of fog just resting on the water and leaving only the tree tops visible, to see such a vessel then is but one remove, or less, from impossibility.

But I have anticipated, intending, first, to describe the movements of the blockade-runner. Take an inward-bound vessel from Nassau, Bermuda, or Halifax. The captain endeavors to reach the vicinity of the coast as near night-fall as possible. To do this they are obliged to run through the cordon of outside cruisers in broad day. They are often seen, and often chased, but generally with ill-success, as but few of our vessels have sufficient speed, and because most of these blockade-runners are sighted about noon, leaving but five or seven hours to night, in which to run them down on a stern chase. Upon approaching the shore, signal is made, and the answer flashed back to the vessel, and also telegraphed by signal down the coast to Federal Point. The blockade-runner then steals along the shore, keeping as close in as possible, with full head of steam and all hands on the alert. If seen, and a Union cruiser stands in to cut them off, all speed is made for the batteries, under whose guns they are tolerably safe. Lights are shown along the shores as guides, and placed in a certain line across Federal Point. Bringing these lights on the point in a given range, over goes the helm, and the vessel flies over the bar. There, it is next to impossible to follow her, because of the difficulty of entering the channel, and on account of the guns of Fort Fisher, Mound Fort, and the batteries which command the channel. Sometimes our vessels open fire on the vessel and forts, as if from rage and mortification, which fire is returned from the forts with all the vigor of exultation. At other times the forts joyfully open fire, to which the fleet angrily responds.

In case the blockade-runner is hard pressed before reaching the cover of the batteries, rather than be captured, the vessel is run ashore. This fact is at once communicated and a battery sent down to cover the wreck. Of course blockade-running is dangerous business, with the liability of stumbling unexpectedly on one of our gunboats, or being fired at by the whole fleet. But "nothing ventured, nothing won" is their motto. I was told by a captain who has successfully run the blockade *eleven times*, in answer to the question, "How do you maneuver to escape our cruisers and then get into port under fire of our fleet?" "I keep one *good* lookout and dodge your vessels as soon as seen, if possible. When I get under fire, I let 'em fire and trust to my heels. I have had shot and shell falling all round my vessel, but only a chance shot hits in a case like that."

The outward bound vessels come down the river from Wilmington, reaching the channel off Federal Point about dusk. Their black smoke and escaping steam can frequently be seen over the low neck of land as they move down the river. The bar vessels run in close that night, and the other vessels patrol short boats, and are near at hand. If the bar vessels are too close, Fort Fisher or the Mound throws a few shell at them, and in the confusion the blockade-runner gets by. Ordinarily, while eyes are strained to their utmost and ears are kept wide open, there suddenly comes out of the gloom a rushing noise, and something like a flying-fish or a bat dashes by the vessel, almost upon it, and is gone; the bar vessels fire a gun at the retreating shape at the risk of hitting something else, throw up a rocket, and one of them starts in pursuit. By the time this is done she is lost in the night. On hearing the gun, the outer vessels go to quarters and prepare to close in or chase. Before the men can fairly get to their guns, the blockade-runner has turned up the coast or whisked across their bows in a most unceremonious manner. Chase is at once made—but in what direction shall they go? Sometimes the retreating vessels wake is visible. Fortunate man who has that to follow! One of our captains told me that he once chased a vessel two hours, by following the smell of her smoke. Generally there is nothing to serve as a guide but the direction the vessel disappeared in. But this can be so easily and so frequently altered by the pursued, that next morning finds the pursuer alone, chasing a myth.

Several nights ago, on the occasion of the escape of an outward-bound vessel, the inside blockaders fired a gun and threw up a rocket. One of the outside vessels was almost upon the blockade-runner, who had his helm hard-a-starboard, which would have taken him up the coast. While getting the gun's crew to quarters, the stranger put his helm hard-a-port and dashed across the cruiser's bow, "much as a porpoise jumps into and out of sight." With his gun pivoted to port or landward, the runner was lost in the darkness before the cruiser could get round or change his gun to starboard. Another difficulty, and this a pleasant (?) one, is the vessels being mistaken by each other for intruders. The other night the Alabama got off her station and ran over upon the Cherokee's beat. As soon as seen by the latter she was promptly challenged with the night signal, but did not reply. A second challenge and no reply, and the Cherokee fired. The Alabama then steamed off, but upon the Cherokee burning a signal rocket to the fleet, the former thought best to show signals.

Let me refer to the occasion of a blockade-runner getting into New Inlet in the day-time, on the 23d inst., an account of which I sent you in my last letter. When "sail ho!" was called from the mast-head, a cross between a very respectable haze and a juvenile fog was brooding over the surface of the water, just leaving the tree-tops visible. It is doubtful if the Pequot would have been discovered, and she was further out from shore than the blockade-runner, had she not been under full sail, made black smoke, and fired at the other vessel. When the black smoke was first seen it was in a direction where black smoke is almost daily seen on shore, and which every vessel on the blockade has chased until they have become quite familiar with it. After the firing was discovered, and it was seen that the shore batteries returned the fire, it was judged that she was one of our cruisers, and the attention of all was directed to her. Upon signal being made by the senior officer to go in chase, the whole fleet made for the Pequot, and only when the Kansas, the leading vessel, was near the Pequot, did she discover the blockade-runner under the guns of Fort Fisher. Had the precautions usually adopted, viz: to send out a vessel to meet any strange sail, been carried out on that occasion by the senior officer, the blockade-runner would have been headed off and forced on shore. Failing in that, the fleet would have had time to get under way, and the vessel could have been seriously damaged by their fire. True, it would have caused an engagement between the fleet and the forts, and somebody might have got hurt, a performance to which there seems to be a decided aversion unless under direct and positive orders.

I wish also to refer to the running in of a pirate on the morning of the 19th inst., also mentioned in a previous letter. I then stated it was supposed to be the Tallahassee, but it is since understood to have been the Chickamauga. There was a fog prevailing at the time, which was just after daylight, and as the fleet was moving back to its anchorage. The tug Clematis, on the bar, fired a gun, and some of the other vessels stood in, thinking she had got aground and needed assistance. The tug continued firing, and as soon as seen was discovered to be afloat. The fire was vigorously returned from the shore, and, the fog lifting, the pirate could be seen under the guns of the fort and firing at the bar vessels. The other vessels opened fire; but the fog closing down again left only the masts of the pirate visible, and it was impossible to tell whether their shot took effect or not. When the fog again lifted the fleet retired, as they were then good marks for the forts and the pirate. I was told that the pirate was aground, but afterward got off. Here was another case where, at the risk of some damage to vessels and life, this pirate might have been destroyed or rendered powerless for some time. The St. Jago de Cuba came in during the firing, but took no part in the contest.

Among other difficulties of the blockade is the lack of experience in shore pilots. I mean those familiar with the gullies which form off the mouth of inlets, and of the small bars which exist along the line of coast. Outside of a certain line it is plain sailing, and all that I have seen the pilot do is to sail the vessel by the chart, which any captain, executive officer or sailing master, can easily do. The blockade-runners are thus enabled to run much closer in shore, and frequently escape because of an inability to follow them. I think the present class of pilots simply serve to make cowards out of brave men.

Complaint is also made as to the quality of the signal-glasses furnished by Government. The best glasses I have seen in the fleet were a set captured on board one of the blockade-runners. To compare our glasses with those would be like comparing the ten and eleven knot vessels of the fleet to the fourteen and fifteen knot vessels that ran the blockade.

It is of the utmost importance that clear glasses of great power and long range should be provided. The number on board each vessel might also be advantageously increased. But the radical evil has been the want of system, and the need of an officer of sufficient rank to remain permanently in command. Heretofore the command has been shifted from one to another, the highest grade being a commander. The nearest approach to system has been latterly under Lt.-Com. Watmough's regime. But he has been frequently interfered with by senior officers who come in for a day or two, but during their temporary stay assumed the functions, without, however, performing the duties. What is needed is a Commodore who shall attend to the *business* of the squadron, coaling supplies, repairs, &c., and get his night's rest undisturbed. Heretofore the senior officer has been on active duty the whole night, has been obliged to see the vessels upon their stations at dark, and to cruise amongst them at night to see that they remain there. Worn out by his night's work, he has been compelled the next day to attend to purely office duties, and snatch such rest as he could during the day preparatory to a repetition of the daily and nightly rounds.

To perform this duty well is a severe tax upon the mental as well as physical qualities of any one, if only followed for a night or two; but to do so for weeks and months at a time, forcibly suggests the old adage, "It is the last straw that breaks the camel's back." Would the good of the service suffer if some of the six or seven striped gentlemen who have been taking their ease on their fine large vessels at Fortress Monroe, and sharing in the prizes captured by vessels of the division, were to come down and assume permanent charge of this blockade—regulating, organizing and improving so as to render it something more than an occasional annoyance to the enemy. I think not. It is devoutly to be hoped, however, that whoever the coming man may be, he will not allow *all* the vessels to remain at anchor at once, as it is simply offering a premium to blockade-runners to use daylight and boldly run through the fleet—a feat not only possible, but highly probable.

After all that has been and can be said, the true way to blockade Wilmington is to capture the place. In order to do this the forts and batteries at the inlet must first be reduced. This is no easy nor pleasant task. Two years ago, when it was proposed to attack and capture the place, it could have been readily done; but the Rebels have been daily learning its importance as a port of entry during that period. Latterly, every day, every hour, every minute, has been and is being improved in digging and throwing up new works, in obstructing the channel, and in devising every means for a systematic and thorough defense. The accumulated cotton at Wilmington would alone be a prize worth gaining, and its destruction by the Rebels would prove disastrous to their cause abroad.

There seems to be no disposition to interfere with the Rebels in their work of fortifying. Like all the operations since the commencement of the war we must wait until the traitors get fully prepared, and then dash madly against formidable earthworks, heavily armed.

W. H. K.

A Trip "Down the River."

From Our Special Correspondent.

NEW-ORLEANS, LA, Nov. 28, 1864.

Time was when a voyage down the Mississippi was an episode in the life of the traveler never to be forgotten; and no matter how often repeated, lost nothing of pleasure and but little of novelty. It was an era from which everything was reckoned. The merchant remembered the date of any important event in mercantile history by its relation to "his trip down the river;" and the broad-brimmed Kentucky farmer could tell with tedious exactness the age of one of his dozen children by recalling to mind the number of years and months through which his hopeful scion had thrived "the winter we were all down to Orleans." But war—that great evil to which we all submit that good may come of it—is a wonderful worker of change. Four years and a half ago it were a thankless task to write of a trip on this river. No tourist on the American continent had completed his travels until he had explored its tortuous shape and its innumerable parasitical bayous. The world has for years associated with its borders rose-colored fancies of broad plantations of exhaustless wealth, and homes whose cares were luxury and whose normal state was affluence—of a land where the Southern Aladin's lamp, Slavery, needed but the burnishing of a monster's order, and tens, twenties or hundreds of slaves, strong and willing, sprang to obey. The South was in those days, indeed, a land of peace, happiness and plenty. To be sure, the negro's shackles may have galled him, but his moans could not be heard through the long nurtured pride that arrogated the liberty and labor of an entire race. No one's feelings were hurt by them. With wealth, climate, Slavery, chivalrous sons and lovely daughters, a degree of social and moral excellence among the women seldom, if ever, attained in any other section of the globe, and a hundred other sources paying ready tribute to their happiness, what more could they ask?—and if more, why? We will look through a Southern planter's spectacles and see: "We, the landed men of the South, are individually the proprietors of thousands of broad acres and hundreds of slaves. Our property represents our individual rights and interests in the country, and our votes are supposed to represent the views (if they have any) of thousands of slaves, three-fifths of whom are reckoned in the popular apportionment. When one of us votes, the nation feels it; that vote is a perceptible weight in the scales—there is a sentiment vindicated. A man of worth, of importance and of solidity—in short, a great man has told his will through the ballot-box, and here the thing should stop.

But, forsooth, while we have the poor whites in the South under good control, our votes can be killed in the North by the votes of the poor mechanics and small farmers who work their own land—an outrage on our wealth, our personal greatness, and our Southern superiority. These men, aside from their color, are no better than our slaves. These Northern mudsills, upon whom rests the grandeur of station of such men as we, have, by their votes elected Mr. Lincoln President. Shall we, the owners of men, abide by the choice of these fellows, whose lot is indigence and toil, and whose fortune is a hovel full of squalid children? No! We will at least break off social and political communication with their section—we will secede, and ask to be let alone. Then, if Government is foolish enough to go to fighting us about it, its armies will be made up of these same mudsills, five of whom are only equal to one Southern man, and we can soon whip them into the recognition of our importance as the representatives of Southern wealth and refinement. After this is done, we will have a proper discrimination between the elite of the South and the poor white trash; and, in the course of time (everything else being ours), we will have a titled nobility—the Duke of Baton Rouge, my Lord of Shirt-tail Bend, Earl of Skipwith's Landing, Viscount Foul-Stomach, Lady Dog-Tooth, Marquis of the Stock Landing, etc. Capital! We will do it."

Cairo, that wonderful city that came near being built in a day, and where many a fortune has been spied out through the medium of its mud, is a place which all travelers are anxious to see, but doubly anxious to get away from. When one gets a view from the top of the levee of the town below him, with its drays and wagons hub deep in the mud, and its horses, mules and people draggling through its bemired streets like flies in a saucer of molasses, he is generally disposed to return to the boat, and inquire of the captain how far it is to the next town. So it was recently with a party of passengers, of whom your correspondent was one. A tedious afternoon had been spent in putting off and taking on freight, and we were all heartily tired of the rattling of drays on the wharf and the rumbling of freight trucks on the deck below.

A unanimous feeling of *ennui*, or rather of a desire to be moving, had brought all the passengers to the front that they might overlook the process of loading, the end of which was to be the beginning of our voyage. The kind-hearted old gentleman with a bad cough, who thought it would help him to go South—though he was all unconsciously going there to die—had in his impatience ventured out in the night air; the distant-looking young man with a shawl, who would spend hours walking up and down, heedless of everything save his own importance and the music of his boot-heels as they tapped upon the promenade deck; the sociable government aid who, as we afterward learned, always went down in the hold when we came near a place where guerrillas had been seen; the tall major who seemed to be so sorry for himself that he could take no notice of any one else, together with all the less notable characters, formed themselves for the moment and by common consent into a brotherhood, whose motive was impatience and whose object was to be moving.

At length the ponderous bell gave notice that we were ready to leave. Passengers exchanged congratulatory glances and continued to watch. The last barrel was rolled on board, the stage hauled in, and the boat, which looked nearly as long as a morning's walk, slowly, and with a noise like half-uttered thunder, backed out into the middle of the stream, turned round, and started on her stately way down the river. In the meantime the negro firemen, about fifty in number, under the leadership of an ox-chested fellow whom they called Captain Bob, gathered on the forecastle to sing the usual song of parting. This song, which was sung at several points on the way down, I give in part—first, because it is less of a senseless rigmarole than most boatmen's songs, and evinces in Captain Bob a measure of the "divine gift;" and second, because it may furnish a foundation to some rising young poet for his maiden epic:

Capt. Bob—We's goin' down de river to New-Orleans.
Chorus—Ho! Susyanna, ho!
When we git dar we'll tell 'em you's a comin'.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
So don't feel bad if we beat you all a runnin'.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
As we go I'll tell you of a wonder.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
One day, in lightnin', rain and thunder.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
I went down to Hell town and seed de devil chained down.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
Devil says to nigga, "What are you arter?"
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
"I'se fireman," says I, "on the Champion of the Water.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
"She's de fastest boat from de mountains to de sea.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
"For she's got wings whar de wheels ought to be.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
"But de whisky's give out and I thought I'd come down—
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
"To see if you wanted a fireman in Hell town."
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
De devil he grinned till he scared dis nigga.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
And his eyes kept a shinin' out bigger and bigger.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
Nigga wants to go, but de devil wants to keep him.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
So de nigga start to run like a painter a leapin'.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
De devil called, and I bawled—oh! how I did run, man.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!
De devil damned and I ran, and I fooled him out of one man.
Ho! Susyanna, ho!

As we passed along the line of steamboats, whose guards were crowded with spectators of our departure, the appearance of their decks, the many moving forms intermingling busily with each other on the wharf, the fifty colored firemen upon our own forecastle, whose lusty lungs were filling the air with an indescribably wild melody, all of which was weirdly visible in the unsteady blaze of the torches that gave light to the labors of the levee hands, the scene was strangely picturesque.

One does not get far below Cairo before the conviction is forced upon him that the pen-and-ink panorama of the Mississippi River must be written again. The pretty little town of Hickman, Ky., is partially in ruins—the result of a Rebel raid a half year since; pyramids of cannon balls, instead of the produce of the neighboring country, occupy the landing at Columbus. New-Madrid, which was completely demolished by the terrible bombardment of March 13, 1862, is to-day with but little change the same pile of ruins it was then. Further down, in the "guerrilla country," lonely looking chimneys standing where once stood happy homes, tell of some guerrilla outrage and the retaliation visited upon the country they infested by the Union marines. In truth, it is safe to state that from Memphis to Baton Rouge, a distance of six hundred miles, there is not now standing in sight of the river more than one dozen houses, aside from the out-houses, negro quarters, &c., which in some instances were not destroyed. Of the towns, Vicksburg, Natchez and Rodney are nearly unhurt. A few scattering chimneys and tottering walls mark the sites of the others.

Our first night out from Cairo was foggy (as indeed was more or less every night and day on the trip), and the boat could but little more than drift along. As there was nothing to be seen beyond the gray wall of mist that surrounded us, the inmates of the cabin, of whom there were about twenty, threw their cares upon the captain's shoulders and went to bed. Anxious to know what progress we had made during the night (and one never travels half so fast as when asleep), your correspondent was up at daylight. The fog had lifted and we were speeding ahead with an open river before us. A heavy black cloud covered the whole sky, except a narrow strip low in the east, where the rosy glow of dawn stole through and fell upon the river, clothing it with a splendor beyond description. The sturdy strokes of the paddle wheels fretted the water into waves, which lost their harshness in the distance, and rose and fell in crimson undulations, leaving, for miles behind us, a belt of subdued light that looked like it might be the couch of Aurora, from which, warned by the lapse of hours, or disturbed by the approach of the day-god, she was about arising to throw open the gates of the morning. Soon, however, this scene was dimmed by the lowering clouds—day visited us in the shape which provokes an unshrinking mental discussion of the subject of self-destruction, and the water which was bearing us onward reassumed its homely mud color.

Persons whose ideas of how muddy water may be, spring from associations and experiences away from this river, have no conception of what the Mississippi looks like when it is rising. I have no intention of trying to tell how muddy it is, because those who have seen it know, and those who have not would not believe me. "What you rubbin' dat mud on your face for, nigger?" said one fireman to another, who was leaning over the side of a yawl washing his face in the river, when we had stopped at Memphis. "Be careful, black man," replies the insulted darkey, lifting up his reeking face, "Your head runs up too much to a pint behind—so you look like a mad mule with only one ear!"

We were a half day's run below the mouth of White River and approaching Gaines's Landing, a point well known as a guerrilla haunt. As was natural, the conversation turned upon these outlaws, and a spirited discussion was as at high tide, as to whether or not cowardice would be evinced in a man by his seeking a place of safety in the event of the boat being attacked. The government aid was furnishing a tacit but forcible illustration of the negative side of the question, having been below the water line for the preceding fifteen minutes, and the captain had just passed through the cabin and assured us that no guerrillas had been seen in the neighborhood for six weeks, when a sharp thwack and a handful of splinters from the back of a vacant chair settled the matter in dispute, and threw the disputants spasmodically into a unanimity of opinion. A front door burst open, and the distant young man with the musical heel-taps rushed in, hanging on to one corner of his shawl, and disappeared down the cabin. The lugubrious major became suddenly alive to the value of his existence to government, and squatted in a most unmajorly manner behind a trunk which was too small by half to screen him, while your correspondent held his breath just long enough to give one tremendous thump with his heart, and plunged into a pile of mail bags.

But, with some bloody exceptions, guerrilla firing is much like lightning—if you live long enough to see it or hear it, you may be sure you are not killed. It was over in a moment, and the passengers presently emerged one by one from their hiding-places—each with a hundred of questions to ask and a load of experiences to relate. It was soon noticed that the young man with the shawl had not re-appeared, and the benevolent old gentleman with a cough insisted that search should be made at once, as he may have been killed or crippled. We found him in his room, in an impromptu bomb-proof, having thrown himself flat upon the floor and drawn a mattress over him. "Are you hurt?" asked the old gentleman, lifting the end of the mattress that covered his face. "Ah! what's that?" ejaculated the young man, evidently thinking the guerrillas had captured the boat, but seeing familiar faces around him, continued, "why, I believe I was asleep."

The cloud of war has cast but a light shadow upon the country from Baton Rouge down to New-Orleans. Guerrillas have never infested that region to any hurtful extent, and there is no sign that it has ever been visited at any point by either army—Union or Confederate. The comfortable family mansions of the thriving planters and the palatial residences of the Southern grandee stand now as of yore, while the groups of negro children, as yet too young to be "put in the field," gather upon the levees to watch the passing steamers, the same as when the "peculiar institution" was in the noon of its existence. It was "grinding day" (Saturday) as we passed along this part of the river, and for miles around scores of white flakes of steam marked where the sugar-mills were at work crushing the succulent cane through the incipient steps of the process which will soon transform it into the two staples of the "coast." A few hours more and we have rounded to at the Stock Landing, four miles above New-Orleans. The municipal regulations of the city require all feathered or four-footed animals to be put ashore here. Another hour's delay and our prow is again turned down stream. Capt. Bob musters his forces in front and celebrates the success of the voyage with an appropriate song. We pass within a stone's throw of an ugly looking, dark blue hulk, built for some purpose which is not supposed by its appearance, but which the captain tells us is the Rebel ram Tennessee—the Confederate Admiral's flag-ship captured at Mobile—round to slowly, passing the while along the outer edge of a literal mass of shipping, whose masts look like a pine forest after a hurricane, and run out our line at the foot (or rather the head, for the river end is much the higher) of Canal-st.

J. L. M.

REBEL CRY FOR HELP.

Remarkable Article from the Richmond Enquirer—Slavery to be given up to Secure European Aid.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1864.

The following, extracted from the leading article of *The Richmond Enquirer* of Dec. 16, will be received as the highest evidence of the impending collapse of the Rebellion:

"Whenever we are reduced so low that we cannot maintain the contest then we can secure liberty and nationality by the sacrifice of slavery. But until we are prepared to make this sacrifice it is no use to look to Europe for help either by recognition or intervention. All the military authorities, those who command the armies and those entrusted with the administration of the conscript bureau, are prepared to say that the population of the country will maintain a force in the field that shall bear to that of the enemy the proportion that the armies of the two nations bore to each other in 1863; then no necessity exists for either arming the negroes or appealing to Europe for protection.

"But if those authorities shall answer differently, then we submit that a crisis is upon us that demands the alternative of subjugation without slaves or independence by arming the negroes. There is every prospect for four years more of war, and as long as we rest on the defensive the enemy can carry on the war without the risk of defeat. If they know that we never follow up our repulses, but must always remain on the defensive, they know that though they may not be able to defeat our armies yet, we will never defeat theirs, and the war is merely a question of exhaustion. Shall we prolong the war for the sake of the negroes? Shall we sacrifice our children to preserve our slaves? Shall we exhaust our country, destroy our noble defenders and endanger every institution rather than test an experiment that may give us the means of recruiting our armies, of assuming the offensive and of conquering a speedy peace? Neither rhetoric nor argument nor authority can determine whether the negroes will make for us a faithful soldier, experiment must test and decide this question. Gen. Lee asks that this experiment be made. But we hate, detest and despise the enemy far more than we love and admire Slavery, and if our liberties cannot be gained but by the sacrifice of Slavery, we are prepared to make that sacrifice and to urge that sacrifice upon our countrymen.

"We would not return into the Union if every slave could be returned to his master, and every guarantee the human ingenuity could devise were received for the protection of the institution. We prefer liberty with free society to re-union upon the securest basis of Slavery. Such we believe to be the sentiment of the people of Virginia. But we know that great many doubts beset this question of arming the negroes, and yet the experiment ought to be tested, and the fact ascertained whether the negroes will make soldiers."

ABSENT MEN CALLED TO DUTY.

Order from the War Department for Officers and Men to Return forthwith to the Field.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Dec. 19, 1864.

The following order has just been issued:

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, Dec. 19, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 301.—Every officer and soldier capable of duty is wanted in the field, and if not on duty they are ordered to their respective organizations.

All Provost-Marshals and Boards of Enrollment are instructed to employ most diligent exertions in forwarding soldiers to the front, and in arresting deserters, shirkers, and all fit for duty, who are absent without proper authority.

Surgeons in charge of hospitals are directed to send forward all who are fit for service, taking care, however, not to expose any who are unfit.

Recruiting officers are enjoined to diligence, and those who are found guilty of neglect, or useless, the Adjutant-General is directed to recall immediately and send to their commands.

Every effort must be put forth to fill up the ranks, strengthen our armies, and aid the patriotic and gallant troops now smiting the reeling enemy with victorious blows.

By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Official Manifesto of the Confederates.

The following is the joint note addressed to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs by the diplomatic representatives of the Confederate Government abroad, transmitting an official copy of the manifesto of the Congress of the Confederate States:

PARIS, November 11, 1864.

SIR: The undersigned Commissioners of the Confederate States of America, in pursuance of the instructions of their Government, have the honor to present to your Excellency a copy of a manifesto issued by the Congress of said States with the approval of the President, and of which the President was requested to cause copies to be transmitted to their Commissioners abroad, to the end that the same might be by them laid before foreign Governments; they at the same time communicate a copy of the preamble and resolutions of Congress accompanying such manifesto. The dispositions, principles, and purposes by which the Confederate States have been and are still animated are set forth in this paper with all the authority due to the solemn declarations of the legislative and executive branches of their Government, and with a clearness which leaves no room for comment or explanation. In a few sentences it is pointed out that "all they ask is immunity from interference with their internal peace and prosperity, and to be left in the undisturbed enjoyment of their inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which their common ancestry declared to be the equal heritage of all parties to the social compact. Let them forbear aggressions upon us, and the war is at an end. If there be questions which require adjustment by negotiations, they have ever been willing, and are still willing, to enter into communication with their adversaries in a spirit of equity and manly frankness, and commit their cause to the enlightened judgment of the world, to the sober reflection of their adversaries themselves, and to the solemn and righteous arbitrament of Heaven." The undersigned beg leave most respectfully to invite the attention of the Government of His Imperial Majesty to this frank and full explanation of the attitude and purposes of the Confederate States, and will merely remark, in addition, that since the issuing of that manifesto the war has continued to be waged by our enemies with even increased ferocity, a more signal disregard of all the rules of civilized warfare, and more wanton violation of the obligations of International law. The undersigned, having thus complied with the instructions of their Government, beg to assure your Excellency of the distinguished consideration with which they have the honor to be, your Excellency's most obedient servants,

JOHN SLIDELL,
J. M. MASON,
A. DUDLEY MANN.

A similar document, says *The Index*, has been presented to all the Cabinets of Europe (Constantinople excepted). Mr. Slidell has handed in person to M. Drouyn De Lhuys the above. Bishop Lynch will hand to the Pope the copy intended for him.

The Weekly Tribune.

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, DEC. 24, 1864.

MISSING MONEY.—A letter addressed to THE TRIBUNE, dated November 28, and purporting to have been mailed at *Fall Brook*, Tioga Co., Pa., containing a $5 legal tender note, No. 69,676, and a $2 legal tender note, No. 76,225, has never been received at this office. *Also* a letter dated November 30, and purporting to have been mailed at *Porter's Corners*, Saratoga Co., N.Y., containing a $10 legal tender note, No. 83,639, series No. 40, and a $5 note, No. 7,092, series 77, both dated March 10, 1862, has not come to hand. Holders of these notes may promote the public interests by tracing them back to the period when they were mailed.

THE PROSPECTUS OF THE TRIBUNE for 1865 will be found in another column of this paper. Those of our friends who deem it desirable that THE TRIBUNE should be circulated in their several localities, we urge to see that clubs be made up and subscriptions forwarded to us without delay. Renewals of subscriptions should always be made a week or so before the old subscription expires. By our present system of directing, subscribers are notified on each paper of the date of the expiration of their subscriptions. It will save them from disappointment, and also save us considerable trouble, if the renewals are sent in before the names are erased from our books.

THE NATION'S CALL.

President Lincoln has most wisely and properly called for Three Hundred Thousand Men to finish up the work of restoring the National authority over every square mile of the Republic. Those who affect to be surprised or disappointed by this call only betray their chagrin at the now manifest failure of their reiterated and confident predictions that the Rebellion never would, never could be put down. Never before, in twice the time, was such progress made in the work as during the six weeks that have elapsed since Mr. Lincoln's reëlection. During that brief period, Georgia has been traversed from Atlanta to Savannah by Gen. Sherman, with hardly a show of resistance, and the Rebel Army of the West, repulsed and fearfully decimated at Franklin, has been assailed in its intrenchments before Nashville, driven therefrom with vast loss, again attacked and again beaten the next day, and sent flying headlong toward the Tennessee River, a routed, reckless mob, having lost fifty-four out of sixty-five guns, thousands of muskets, hundreds of wagons, three Major-Generals and at least half a dozen Brigadiers, with not less than Fifteen Thousand of the Forty Thousand Men who filled its ranks when it advanced in its pride from Alabama, threatening to capture Nashville with all its immense stores, and chase the remnant of its routed defenders out of Tennessee and across Kentucky to the Ohio. It is plain that what is left of Hood's army cannot regain Alabama or Georgia in half the available strength it carried thence a few weeks ago.

Then why call for more men? Because,

I. The late call for Half a Million produced but Two Hundred Thousand. Credits demanded by this or that locality—most of all by our own City—cut it down nearly half, while large numbers drafted have skulked to Canada or nearer hiding-places, leaving our armies no stronger to-day than they were three months ago, or tens of thousands have meantime been discharged on the expiration of their term of service or by reason of disability; while some have deserted, more are disabled, and many have given their lives to their country. Actually, there are not so many men in the Union armies to-day as there were when the President issued his last call for Half a Million.

II. We want to see the last vestiges of the Rebellion speedily as well as surely crushed out. The country has already been too long afflicted and devastated by it. It is mercy, it is humanity, it is palpable economy, so to fill the ranks of our wasted armies that the staggering blows just dealt to Secession shall be swiftly followed up and repeated until the breath is fairly beaten out of its body. Had the last call been truly filled, no further call would ever have been necessary. Let this be so filled that the Rebellion shall not outlast the vernal season of 1865.

III. It has been the habit of the Opposition journals to add up the various calls and present the aggregate as the number who have actually swelled the Union ranks, when it is notorious that nothing like that number was ever obtained, even for a few months. Many of those who have really served are counted thrice in this way: first, as three-months' men; then as nine-months' men; a third time as newly enlisted under one of the late calls. Probably half the number called would equal the whole number who have actually seen service.

IV. We note cavils at the call which assume that Volunteering is preferable to Drafting. The criticism is purely factious. Each State, each County, each township, is at perfect liberty and is accorded all reasonable time to fill its quota by volunteering. No one wishes or contemplates a draft where volunteers can be had. It is only in case volunteers are not forthcoming that drafting is to take place. The President and all about him will rejoice to learn that drafting is nowhere necessary. It is only in case of failure to realize the requisite men by volunteering that a draft is to be made.

V. We still cherish ardent hopes that few or none of the men now called will ever be wanted at the front—that the Rebellion will collapse before they can be sent forward. Could the whole Three Hundred Thousand be raised in January, we confidently believe that the War would be over before the end of March. Nothing will so contribute to that blessed consummation as a prompt and hearty response to the new call.

VI. Our soldiers in the field are proving themselves heroes. The season subjects them to severe privations, but they do not falter nor quail. They deserve as well as need evidences of our sympathy and admiration. And nothing will so encourage and stimulate them to surpass even their own achievements as tidings that their compatriots at home continue to "rally round the flag," and will soon be filling up their thinned ranks with new levies. Assure them of this, and they will go on conquering and to conquer until the Rebellion is no more.

—We hope to be able to chronicle, before the end of January, that at least two-thirds of the number required by this call have already been enlisted, and that the residue soon will be. In that case, we shall not have to wait till the call is filled for the end of the War.

WILLIAM L. DAYTON.

A worthy, true man has fallen at his post. WILLIAM L. DAYTON, our Embassador to France, is no more of earth. He was appointed by President Lincoln directly after his inauguration, repaired forthwith to Paris, and has since discharged the duties of his most responsible station with eminent dignity, ability and fidelity. He has had a powerful, crafty antagonist in the arch-rebel John Slidell; but Mr. Dayton's whole heart was thrown into his work, and he has done it nobly.

Utterly devoid of craft or guile, he has proved that a diplomatist may be eminently influential and useful without them. Always a decided partisan of the Whig, and then of the Republican faith, he never forfeited the esteem of a political opponent, and was universally respected even by those who voted in opposition to him. He probably never had a personal enemy, and certainly never lost the regard of a friend. New-Jersey has not many such sons left to follow him.

THE CANADIAN DIFFICULTY SETTLED.

We have not been disposed, as our readers will bear witness, to complain very bitterly of the decision of Mr. Justice Coursal of Montreal, wherein he outraged law and common sense that he might gratify his own sympathies with Southern Rebels, and set at liberty the St. Albans raiders. It was, as we have believed from the outset, a fortunate decision for us, inasmuch as it took the case out of the jurisdiction of a petty court, and put it, where it belonged, into the hands of the two Governments, to be settled as a political question on which depended the maintenance of peace between the two countries. The result we looked for is already reached. By dispatch from Washington we learn that the Governor-General of Canada has arrested one of the criminals set at liberty by Judge Coursal, and that he is on his way to the States, to be delivered up for trial. A hot pursuit is made for the rest, who will probably be taken and served in the same way. And the Government of Canada announces that it will be its care hereafter, as it is clearly its duty, to prevent any repetition of hostile invasion from its territory. This is no more than our own Government had a right to expect and demand. For a crime committed within its borders it had a right to demand, under the treaty, the return of the criminals for trial, and the Canadians could not justly refuse their rendition, unless they chose to punish these men for treason for acts involving the two countries in war. This and any similar invasion being acts of war, it is clearly the duty of that Government to enforce its own laws and protect its own dignity by sufficient measures of prevention; or, failing to do this, to justify and accept the hostile relations between the two Governments thus inaugurated. Such was the actual situation in which we were placed by the action of Coursal, and the prompt and effective order of Gen. Dix was necessary and proper till that action was repudiated by the highest authority in the State. The rescinding of that order was, no doubt, in consequence of assurances from the Governor-General that he should adopt the wise measures which are now announced. Whether this result might not have been earlier reached had a different course been taken in the beginning, and the question considered as one to be settled solely by negotiation between the two Governments, it is hardly now worth while to inquire. It has been settled now upon its only true basis, and hereafter the peace of the two nations is not to be put in jeopardy by hostile incursions over the British border; and should any raid be made, the raiders will be handed over to us to be dealt with as ordinary robbers, or as Rebel guerrillas, according to the evidence. The promptness and good sense of the Governor-General has unquestionably saved us, as well as the British Government, much future trouble. Nor should we fail to give due credit to Gen. Dix for bringing the question to its true issue. Mr. Justice Coursal has achieved a short-lived notoriety, which he will probably have the opportunity of enjoying for the rest of his days in the undisturbed tranquillity of private life. *Otium cum indignitate.* He is not the first goose whose cackling has saved a State.

A CALL FOR THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN.

The following is Mr. Lincoln's call for a new draft:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 1864.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES—A PROCLAMATION:

Whereas, by the act approved July 4, 1864, entitled "An act further to regulate and provide for the enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes," it is provided that the President of the United States may at his discretion at any time hereafter call for any number of men as volunteers for the respective terms of one, two or three years for military service, and that in case the quota or any part thereof, of any town, township, ward of a city, precinct or election district, or of a county not so subdivided, shall not be filled within the space of fifty days after such call, then the President shall immediately order a draft for one year, to fill such quota or any part thereof which may be unfilled; and whereas, by the credits allowed in accordance with the act of Congress on the call for five hundred thousand men, made July 18th, 1864, the number of men to be obtained under that call was reduced to 280,000; and whereas, the operations of the enemy in certain States have rendered it impracticable to procure from them their full quotas of troops, under the said call; and whereas, from the foregoing causes but 250,000 men have been put into the army, navy, and marine corps, under said call of July 18, 1864, leaving a deficiency on that call of 260,000; now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, in order to supply the aforesaid deficiency, and to provide for casualties in the military and naval service of the United States, do issue this, my call, for Three Hundred Thousand Volunteers to serve for one, two or three years. The quotas of the States, districts and sub-districts under this call will be assigned by the War Department through the Bureau of the Provost-Marshal-General of the United States, and in case the quota or any part thereof, of any town, township, ward of a city, precinct or election district, or of a county, not so subdivided, shall not be filled before the 15th day of February, 1865, then a draft shall be made to fill such quota, or any part thereof under this call, which may be unfilled on the 15th day of February, 1865.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. [L. S.] Done at the City of Washington, this 19th day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-ninth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President. WM. H. SEWARD, Sec. of State.

SHARP ORDER OF GEN. BUTLER.—Gen. Butler has issued an order for the protection of the enlisted men in his command, as follows:

"*General Orders No. 163.*—It has come to the knowledge of the commanding general, by frequent complaints of private soldiers, that officers borrow money of the enlisted men of their commands.

No practice could be more demoralizing to both officers and men. Enlisted men do not feel themselves at liberty to refuse their officers. Men, if they loan money to their officers, expect favors in return, and there is an end to discipline, and an incentive to favoritism. Officers borrowing money of their men do not regulate their expenditure within their income, and find themselves unable to repay it.

This practice must be stopped. Hereafter it will be held cause to recommend for dismissal any officer who shall borrow money or incur debt to an enlisted man. After the next payment any officer who shall be indebted to an enlisted man, and has not paid him, will be recommended for dismissal upon complaint of his creditor."

THE GREAT CONTEST.

The following is Secretary Stanton's bulletin to Gen. Dix, with the War Department's own news of the victorious advances aiming from sundry quarters at the vitals of the writhing Rebellion:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Friday, Dec. 16—8:15 p. m.

To Maj.-Gen. Dix, New-York:

Official dispatches from Gen. Canby have been received to-day, showing the complete success of an expedition sent out by him from Vicksburg to cooperate with Gen. Sherman's operations, and cut Hood's communications with Mobile. Gen. Canby also reports the probable success of another expedition from Baton Rouge, under command of Gen. Davidson, the details and object of which it is not proper now to disclose. When last heard from Davidson was reported as having caused quite a panic in Mobile, and to be devastating the country generally. Lieut.-Col. Earl, commanding a special party, was severely wounded, and fell into the hands of the enemy at Fayette, Miss. The Richmond papers of to-day confirm the reported capture of Bristol by an expedition supposed to be under the command of Stoneman and Burbridge. Also the surprise and capture of Glade Spring depot, on the railroad thirteen miles south of Abington, Va.

They also contain Gen. Hood's official report of the battle of Franklin, in which he acknowledges the loss of many gallant officers and brave men, among whom he enumerates Maj.-Gen. Cleburne, Brig.-Gens. John Williams, Adams, Gist, Strobl and Granberry, killed; Maj.-Gen. John Brown, and Brig.-Gens. S. Carter, Manigault, Quarles, Cockerell and Scott, wounded, and Brig.-Gen. Gordon taken prisoner. They also state that on Wednesday Gen. Sherman carried Fort McAllister, commanding the entrance to the Ogeechee River, by storm, and the capture of this position puts Sherman in communication with the Yankee fleet, and necessitates the reënforcement of Savannah. The dispatches of Gen. Canby, so far as is proper for publication, and the extracts from the Richmond papers giving Hood's official report of the battle and our success in South-Western Virginia and in Georgia, are subjoined. Up to this hour (8:30 p. m.) nothing has been heard from Nashville since last night, and nothing from Gen. Sherman later than the Richmond newspapers report of the capture of Fort McAllister on Wednesday.

NEW-ORLEANS, La., Dec. 9, 1864.

On the 25th ult. I reported that movements coöperative with Gen. Sherman's operations would be made from Vicksburg and Baton Rouge for the purpose of cutting Hood's communications with Mobile. The expedition from Vicksburg, consisting of about 2,000 cavalry and eight pieces of artillery, under the command of E. D. Ostrand, of the 3d Colored Cavalry, returned on the 4th inst., having met with a complete success. After an admirably executed flank movement on Jackson on the 24th ult., the expedition started for the Big Black Bridge on the Mississippi Central Railroad, which was reached on the 27th, and after a stubborn resistance, captured and destroyed it. This cuts Hood's army off from the large quantities of supplies and stores accumulated at Jackson, Miss., and makes that railroad, which was his main reliance, unavailable to him for months to come. Besides this important bridge and trestle work the following property was destroyed: Thirty miles of track, including culverts; the wagon-bridge over the Big Black; Vaughn, Pickett and Goodman Stations, with all the railroad depots and buildings; twenty-six hundred bales of cotton, two locomotives, four cars, four stage-coaches, twenty barrels of salt, and $166,000 worth of stores at Vaughn's Station. The expedition was considerably harassed on its return by large bodies of the enemy's forces, but suffered no material losses, and brought back more recruits than its entire loss in effective men. Maj. J. B. Cook, commanding the Third Colored Cavalry distinguished himself and his regiment greatly by the gallantry with which the force guarding the Big Black Bridge were driven behind their strong stockades on the opposite side of the river. Our men had to charge across the bridge dismounted, with nothing but railroad ties for a path, and in the face of a sharp fire. I have announced Maj. Cook in general orders as promoted to the vacant lieutenant-colonelcy of the regiment, subject to the approval of the President. E. R. CANBY, Maj.-Gen.

The Richmond Dispatch of to-day, after fully confirming the previous reports of the capture of Bristol, states that "the enemy then advanced up the railroad toward Abingdon, which we presume fell into their hands, though we have no information of the fact. The *last* we hear of them, they had at 9 o'clock yesterday morning pounced down on Glade Spring, a depot on the railroad thirteen miles this side of Abingdon, taking every one there by surprise, and capturing all of the railroad employés except one, who managed to escape to tell the tale. At last accounts the enemy were pushing up the railroad in the direction of Marion, which is twenty-seven miles on this side of Abingdon. This is a raid in Breckinridge's rear. The raiders leaving their forces somewhere in the neighborhood of Knoxville, came up the north side of the Holston River, and crossed over to Bristol. It is probable the raiders separated, one party proceeding to Bristol and the other to Abingdon. If unchecked, it is likely they will come up the railroad even as far as Salem, and thence escape to the Kanawha by the route followed by Hunter last Summer. It is unknown who is in command of this expedition, but it looks very much like some of Stoneman's galloping work. None of the dispatches received say anything about Saltville. If it is unprotected it has doubtless been visited by the enemy. If, however, there were any troops there, the Yankees were apt to fight shy of it and confine their operations to the railroad. Gen. Hood's official report of the battle of Franklin has at last been received. It will be seen that our reported extraordinary loss of general officers is but too true. The following is Gen. Hood's dispatch:

HDQRS. ARMY OF TENNESSEE, SIX MILES FROM NASHVILLE, Dec. 8, VIA MOBILE, Dec. 9, 1864.

To the Hon. J. A. Seddon.—About 4 o'clock p. m., Nov. 30, we attacked the enemy at Franklin and drove them from their center line of temporary works into their inner lines, which they evacuated during the night, leaving their dead and wounded in our possession, and retired to Nashville closely followed by our cavalry. We captured several stands of colors and about 1,000 prisoners. Our troops fought with great gallantry. We have to lament the loss of many gallant officers and men. Maj.-Gen. Cleburne, and Brig.-Gens. John Williams, Adams, Gist, Strahl and Granbury were killed. Maj.-Gen. John Brown and Brig.-Gens. S. Carter, Marigault, Quarles, Cockerell and Scott were wounded. Brig.-Gen. Gordon was captured.

J. B. HOOD, General.

"A subsequent telegram from Gen. Hood says that our loss of officers was exceedingly large in proportion to the loss of men. Official intelligence was received yesterday, that the enemy on Wednesday carried Fort McAllister by storm. The garrison of the fort consisted of one hundred and fifty men. Fort McAllister is on the Ogeechee River, fifteen miles south-west of Savannah, at the point where the river is crossed by the Savannah, Albany and Gulf Railroad, and about six miles from the Ossabaw Sound. The capture of this position put Sherman in communication with the Yankee fleet. Without attempting any military criticism we cannot withhold the opinion that the exposing of one hundred men to the assault of Sherman's whole army was a piece of extravagance that our present military resources do not seem to warrant."

The Examiner has the following:

"Fort McAllister commands the entrance of the Ogeechee River, and has prevented the enemy heretofore from ascending the river; we believe there are other works further up the stream which would render the navigation of the stream by the enemy extremely uncomfortable. The fall of Fort McAllister does not by any means involve the loss of Savannah, but will necessitate the reënforcement of the troops defending that city. At Glade Spring the enemy captured an engine and fourteen flats, with some railroad hands. On these cars a party of men were mounted and sent up the road toward Marion, and a dispatch from the operator at that place on yesterday tells us that they were at 2 o'clock within a mile of that place. Their object is easily divined; it is to burn the bridge over the Holston River and break the road, to prevent troops from being sent down the line by steam to reënforce Saltville. To Saltville the main body will undoubtedly go, and, in all human probability, has already gone. There are some fortifications at Saltville, and some reserves, whose numbers we do not know. If these can check them by any sacrifice, reënforcements will soon put the place out of danger. At present it is certainly in great danger."

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

GEN. GRANT'S OPERATIONS.

We find the in *The Richmond Enquirer* the following accounts of matters near Richmond on Saturday, the 10th, and following days:

The news received from the front on Saturday was of a decidedly encouraging character. At an early hour, it appears, in spite of snow and sleet, Gen. Longstreet advanced upon the enemy's lines on the Darbytown Road, and drove their forces out of the works and pursued for four miles, taking possession of our old lines on New-Market Hill, some two miles and a half northeast of Fort Harrison. Not much fighting occurred, as the enemy, whose line was a mere "shell," rapidly gave way and did not stop to dispute the ground. A brisk cannonading was kept up on other parts of the line during this movement. At last accounts from the field our forces still hold the ground they had captured. Some important results were anticipated. On Saturday a strong force of the enemy's infantry drove in our cavalry on the Vaughan Road, in front of Petersburg, that were subsequently driven back with the loss of some killed and wounded and about one hundred prisoners. Our losses were very slight.

SUNDAY, Dec. 11.—The Rebel troops which yesterday demonstrated on our right, were this morning all withdrawn, and our picket lines have been to-day considerably advanced in that direction. The French gunboat Adonis, which arrived at Aiken's landing a week since, remains still in the river. Two commercial agents of the French Government, who were permitted to visit Richmond, have this evening arrived at these headquarters, and I understand that the Adonis will to-morrow leave with them on board.

THURSDAY, Dec. 15.—Unusual quiet has prevailed along the lines in front of Petersburg the last few days, scarcely a shot being exchanged, except in the evening on the right of the lines. Last night, however, quite an excitement was kept up from about 8 to 10 o'clock, when the firing died away gradually, and after midnight not a shot was heard. Of course the pickets in the vicinity of Fort Hell were responsible for the outbreak, although some other parts of the line further west were participants. A report is current that a number of our pickets, watching the rear of our lines, were taken and murdered the night before last, and that, in consequence, the force of men on this side has been doubled. Changes are being made in the disposition of our troops, but there is nothing to indicate an early attack upon the enemy. The troops engaged in the late raid are almost all in good condition, but some of them returned from the trip with frozen hands and feet and others ill, caused by the severe weather which prevailed at the time.

The presentation of medals to such members of regiments in the Second Corps as had particularly distinguished themselves in battle during the late campaign took place to-day. The regiments to which the recipients belong were assembled in front of Gen. Humphreys's headquarters and formed in line, presenting three sides of a square. At about 4 o'clock Gen. Meade, accompanied by Gen. Humphreys and the division and brigade commanders, followed by their staffs, appeared on the field, and took position on the open side of the square. The men who were to receive the medals were summoned forward, and advanced into the center, in front of Gen. Meade. The General then addressed the soldiers for about ten minutes, after which he presented each man with his medal, and closed with a few additional remarks, in the course of which he thanked these heroes for their gallantry and devotion in the late campaign, and assured them that a grateful country would long cherish their names and deeds as examples to teach their children to admire and emulate. He expressed the hope that presentations of medals for brave deeds would occur more frequently, and that those found worthy would appear in much larger numbers. These presentations have a good effect upon the men, inducing a spirit of emulation among them, as well as showing them that their conduct is known and appreciated. To-day has been a very quiet one along the entire line, even the firing on the James River seeming to be suspended. The reports circulated to the effect that Gen. Warren had ordered the houses on the line of his late march to be burned, in retaliation for the shooting of some of our stragglers by guerrillas, are untrue. Gen. Warren, as well as his staff and other commanders, did all in their power to prevent these outrages, particularly where women and children were living, and although their efforts did not prevent a terrible scene of devastation and conflagration, yet more than one habitation was saved to its unfortunate occupants.

FRIDAY, Dec. 16.—Four deserters were hung to-day. They died expressing regret for their offense.

SUNDAY, Dec. 18.—There is little of interest to report from this army, our commanders seeming to be waiting for the result of Sherman's operations as well as those of the fleet which lately sailed from Fortress Monroe. A good deal of heavy firing has been going on at the Dutch Gap canal during the past few days. In front of Petersburg the enemy a day or two ago opened a new one hundred pound gun, and have since been industriously engaged in throwing shells at the railroad trains as they pass certain points of the road in full view of their gunners, but they have done no damage whatever, nor are they likely to do so, unless they show more accuracy than they have done so far. This morning a salute of one hundred guns was fired in honor of the great victory of Thomas over Hood. The Rebels sullenly threw a few shells to reply, but they did no damage. Last night the pickets on the right of the line were very active, keeping up an exchange of compliments all night.

A Rebel Attack on Our Pickets—Scouting Expedition—False Report of the Death of Jeff. Davis.

HDQRS. OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Dec. 19, 1864.

An attack was made by the Rebels last night on our pickets on the extreme left of the line held by the division of Gen. Miles of the 2d Corps. They captured six or eight men, killed one, and wounded another, all of the 5th New-Hampshire Regiment.

The attacking party were quickly driven back and the line reëstablished.

Two or three days ago two Rebel scouts, named Waterbury and Brown, claiming to belong to the 2d North Carolina Regiment, were captured and placed in the guard-house. They managed, however, to escape shortly after by cutting through the board fence surrounding their prison, and getting out into the woods, got lost. Waterbury then went to seek information from a camp near by, and saying that he belonged to a Pennsylvania cavalry regiment, got the guard to conduct him toward the lines held by the cavalry.

After proceeding some distance they joined, and pretending great curiosity to examine the gun his companion was carrying, asked to see it, and after getting it into his possession told the soldier he was a prisoner, and led him off into the woods, where they camped for the night. The guard, feigning to be asleep, watched his chance, and when he found the other fast asleep, he grasped the gun from underneath his enemy and fired, wounding him badly in the side, from which it is doubtful if he will recover. He was taken to a house near by, where he was paroled by one of our officers. Brown succeeded in making his escape.

A report is current here to-day that Jeff. Davis is dead, having been poisoned himself. Scouts and deserters say it is true, and the same story is current in Gen. Butler's Department; but what source they got it from I cannot say.

The Richmond papers of to-morrow will undoubtedly inform us of the truth or falsity of the story.

December 20.—Richmond papers of yesterday say that the report of the death of Jeff. Davis is a *canard*, and that he is well and will be at his office during the day.

How a Rebel Stratagem Came to Naught—Rumors in Rebel Ranks—Illness of Jeff Davis—The Negro-Arming Question—Despondency in Richmond.

From Our Special Correspondent.

HDQRS. ARMY OF THE JAMES, NEAR RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 19, 1864.

Deserters from the other side report the most intense interest as existing inside the Rebel lines for news from Sherman and Hood through Northern journals. Richmond and the Confederate army in our front is full of rumors of disasters to their cause, which is having a disquieting as well as demoralizing effect upon their officers and men. Yesterday being Sunday, there were no exchanges, and Gen. Picket, in command of the Division of Rebel troops extending across the Bermuda Hundred front, between the Appomattox and the James, undertook to effect the capture of some of our pickets to obtain the news. A small squad of men were accordingly ambushed and one trustworthy Virginian was sent out to act as a decoy to induce some of our men to indulge in a friendly chat at a point where, it was hoped, they might by a sudden *coup* be "gobbled." The decoy entered upon his delicate mission with enthusiasm—so much enthusiasm, indeed, that he forgot the ungratified curiosity of his General, and walked inside our lines, where he related the ingenious stratagem of the too-confiding Rebel General, who, for ought we know, is still awaiting his return.

The Richmond papers affect ignorance of the fall of Savannah; but it is believed in the Rebel Army that it has been captured by Sherman, together with twelve thousand prisoners. They deny the loss of Salt, ville, in south-western Virginia, and claim that the salt-works at that place are defended by Gen. Breckinridge—who, by the way, is known to be elsewhere. I am advised, from an authentic source, that news reached Richmond three days ago that our raiding party had captured and destroyed these works.

The Whig of to-day says that Jeff. Davis has been suffering from neuralgia for a few days past, but is so much better as to be present yesterday at a Cabinet-meeting. On the contrary, I am assured, and believe it to be true, that Jeff. Davis is lying critically ill with a nervous typhoid fever, from which it is doubtful if he recovers. His condition is said to be rendered more precarious by the successive disasters which have befallen the Rebel cause at every point of the compass, rendering it difficult to keep his mind sufficiently composed to meet the wishes of his physician and the necessities of his case.

The Rebel Senate, on motion of Mr. Hill, of Georgia, went into secret session immediately upon assembling on Saturday last, and a stormy time was had. The question of immediately arming the negroes was again brought up, and *is believed to have been passed by an almost unanimous vote.*

For several days past every able-bodied negro in Richmond, whether free or slave, has been quietly seized and hurried off to a camp of instruction.

The gloom which the news arriving through their own and the Northern journals has caused in Richmond is unparalleled during the war, while the rumors of still further disasters which the public and the army believe has been suppressed by the military authorities, causes a feeling of despondency and uneasiness that cannot be adequately described in words.

If there is anything in indications, there is abundant evidence to show that the beginning of the end is at length attained, and that henceforth the labors of our armies will be employed within a narrower compass.

J. R. C.

GEN. THOMAS'S OPERATIONS.

THURSDAY, Dec. 15.—Gen. Thomas, after retiring and concentrating in Nashville, and letting Hood set down at leisure before the city, on Thursday, Dec. 15th, suddenly burst out of his works upon the unlucky Hood, and in two days overwhelming attacks and a most obstinately close pursuit, has routed and substantially destroyed his army. The following are Gen. Thomas's own reports to Mr. Stanton, and another unofficial report of the first day's fight:

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 15—9 p. m.

"Attacked the enemy's left this morning and drove it from the river below the city very nearly to Franklin pike, a distance of about eight miles. Have captured Chalmers's headquarters and train, and a second train of about twenty wagons, with between eight hundred and one thousand prisoners, and sixteen pieces of artillery. Our troops behaved splendidly, all taking their share in assaulting and charging the enemy's breastworks. I shall attack the enemy again to-morrow if he stands to fight, and if he retreats during the night I will pursue him, throwing a heavy cavalry force in his rear to destroy his trains if possible."

"GEORGE H. THOMAS, Maj.-Gen.

The following is an account from a correspondent of the fighting on Thursday:

The army commenced moving at daybreak to-day with Gen. Steedman's Corps on our left; the Fourth Corps next, and then A. J. Smith's Corps. The cavalry force moved to the right and the Twenty-third Corps was held in reserve. Very little except reconnoitering was done until after meridian, but at half past twelve o'clock the order to advance was given and the whole column moved onward. The Rebels evidently expected that Gen. Thomas would attempt to turn their left flank. All the indications would cause us to suppose this, and they offered numerous inducements for us to do so, and had carefully prepared their works to receive our forces if we should attack them in that quarter. To keep up the delusion Steedman's command was ordered to skirmish heavily on the Rebel left flank, and he moved forward in the direction of the point which the Rebels believed we were threatening. While Steedman was maneuvering in this manner, the Rebels were massing on their left, and we were concentrating the Sixteenth and Twenty-third Corps and General Wilson's cavalry on our right. The result of this was that when the bugles sounded the advance our right wing advanced rapidly between the left of the Rebels and the Cumberland River, completely doubling upon a Rebel division which the Rebels had posted to blockade the river. A battery was taken here by our forces and sent to the rear. The Rebels had by this time perceived that our attack on the right was a feint, and Hood soon attempted to atone for his mistake, but he was too late, as our right had established a force on the main bank of the river, and were steadily advancing. The whole Twenty-third Corps had taken a position on the extreme right, while Smith's Corps executed a half wheel, driving the columns of Rebels before him coolly and rapidly. Soon the hill where the Rebels were posted was taken, with little loss and less difficulty. In an hour or so the Rebels had presented a strong front, and our progress for the moment was checked. It was now visible that the contest was about to commence. Another diversion on the left was made to enable our men on the right to get into position and strengthen themselves, so as to be ready for a charge. In front of the Fourth Corps, and about one mile beyond Acklin, the Rebels had a strong line of works, defended by a heavy line of skirmishers. General Wood ordered a charge upon it, and the word "forward" was shouted by the division, brigade and regimental commanders, and with promptness and decision the men leaped over the breastworks and advanced. In less than twenty minutes our forces had possession of the Rebel works, and the banners of the Fourth Corps were planted on them. Our men, flushed with victory, without orders pushed forward and reached the second line of Rebel works by the most strenuous exertions, and captured some prisoners, which, with those taken previously, amounted to over one thousand. The second line of Rebel intrenchments were now in sight, located on the verge of a hill, one mile from their skirmish line. These intrenchments were built with great skill, and some time elapsed ere our men were got in position to advance upon them. Our cavalry had advanced meanwhile until its right rested on the hills, six miles below Nashville. Moving from the river they could now maneuver without difficulty. Instead of facing to the West, they now faced directly South. The Second Corps of Schofield and Smith's Corps were in position directly parallel on the left. The skirmishers were advanced to the Hillsborough pike, sheltering themselves behind fences on the north side, while the Fourth Corps was formed at right angles, the front division lying directly across the Hillsborough pike, and the remainder being to the left of it. While these movements were going on and our lines were forming and batteries being placed, the Rebels could be distinctly seen moving to the left toward Hillsborough, with the view to prevent our turning their right flank. As far as could be ascertained the entire Rebel reserve was thus thrown in front of our right and center. In the meantime our commanders sent reënforcements equally as strong to our posts menaced by the Rebels. At half past three o'clock all was ready for the charge on the second line of the Rebel works. The position was a strong one, to reach which our forces had to ascend hills to an elevation of fifteen degrees without any protection; but the lines were four columns deep, with ample reserves. Our forces were massed against the Rebel lines, and the veteran columns were hurled against the Rebels with irresistible force, and at ten minutes before five p. m. the charge commenced. The First and Second divisions of the Fourth Corps moved west and the Third division, at right angles with it, moved south. On the right of the Fourth Corps was the corps of A. J. Smith. The First and Second division, of the Fourth Corps, had the hardest part of the task to perform. They had to move, in an exposed position, to the Rebel works in their front, and these works were more formidable and stronger than those elsewhere. Under a heavy fire of grape, canister and musketry our men moved steadily forward; but owing to the Rebels firing too high it mostly passed over them—otherwise the slaughter would have been terrible. Some of our men were killed; but the list of casualties was less than expected. After advancing within one hundred and fifty yards of the Rebel works, their fire became very severe. Our troops never wavered; but with a shout along the lines, and ringing along the Hillsborough pike, they again advanced, and were almost immediately upon the intrenchments. The distance yet to be passed did not exceed one hundred yards, and reënforcements were in sight coming, yet the Rebels evinced no signs of retiring, and discharged volley after volley into our ranks at a distance of twenty-five yards. A few of our men had now reached the works and were using the bayonet, when some few of the Rebels fled, followed by others, and soon all broke and fled in the wildest confusion. Four twelve-pounder Napoleon guns their artillerists attempted to secure; but they only succeeded in getting one of them off the field. We secured three cannon and two caissons, with a large lot of small arms. We also captured in this charge about four hundred prisoners. The prisoners report that Hood told them that they could hold their position against any Yankee force which could be brought against them. Our losses in this charge did not exceed one hundred killed and wounded. Smith's and Schofield's corps had in the meantime advanced a half a mile to the south of the Hillsborough pike, capturing there a whole battery of six guns. This makes the total of artillery captured, five guns being taken on the extreme left by the Fifteenth Ohio, amount to eighteen guns. Several battle flags were also taken. The Rebel loss in killed and wounded is not less than six hundred, while ours is only about three hundred. The Rebels have taken up another line, and may defend it to-morrow if they do not retreat to-night. One of the most brilliant charges made to-day was by the Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth colored regiments. The charge was on Paul's Hill, near the Dolansville Pike, and broke the Rebel line. The colored troops behaved splendidly and lost severely. Col. Shaffer's colored regiment and the Seventeenth colored regiment lost nearly all their officers. On the White Pike, in front of Acklin's residence, Gen. Beatty led the charge on the first Rebel line, and at 12 o'clock to-day our forces carried it at the point of the bayonet, and planted our guns on the works abandoned by the Rebels. Fifty prisoners were captured in this charge. Our losses were very slight, although we advanced in great confusion. Lieut. J. Watson, of the Fifth Iowa, was shot through the breast while gallantly charging the enemy's batteries, and mortally wounded. The steamer Pike, in the Quartermaster's service, while proceeding up the river, when three miles from the city, was fired into by the Rebels. One man named George Blakely was killed, and four others wounded. She turned back. The gunboat fleet were engaged down the river, about fourteen miles from the city, shelling the Rebel left very vigorously. The headquarters of the Rebel Gen. Chalmers were captured, with fifteen wagons and all his books, papers, valuables, &c. These are now at Capt. Goodwin's headquarters.

FRIDAY, Dec. 16.—The following official reports tell to-day's story:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Saturday, Dec. 17—8:55 a. m.

Maj.-Gen. JOHN A. DIX: The following official report of the great victory achieved yesterday by Maj.-Gen. Thomas and his gallant army over the Rebel forces under Gen. Hood, in front of Nashville, was received this morning. One of the most surprising circumstances connected with the great achievement is the small loss suffered by our troops, evincing among other things the admirable skill and caution of Gen. Thomas in his disposition of the battle. In our rejoicings at the defeat of the enemy, thanks are due to the Almighty for his protection to our gallant officers and soldiers in the great conflict they have passed through. The report of Gen. Thomas, and also an unofficial report containing interesting details are subjoined:

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND, 8 miles from Nashville, Dec. 16—6 p. m.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, *Hon.* EDWIN M. STANTON, *and Lieut.-Gen.* U. S. GRANT:

This army thanks you for your approbation of its conduct yesterday, and to assure you that it is not misplaced, I have the honor to report that the enemy has been pressed at all points to-day in his line of retreat to the Brentwood Hills. Brig.-Gen. Hatch, of Wilson's corps of cavalry, on the right, turned the enemy's left, and captured a large number of prisoners, the number not yet reported. Maj.-Gen. Schofield's corps, next on the left of the cavalry, carried several hills, captured many prisoners, and six pieces of artillery. Brevet Maj.-Gen. Smith, next on the left of Maj.-Gen. Schofield, carried the salient point of the enemy's line with McMillan's Brigade of McArthur's Division, capturing sixteen pieces of artillery, two Brigadier-Generals, and about two thousand prisoners. Brig.-Gen. Garrard's Division of Smith's command, next on the left of McArthur's Division, carried the enemy's intrenchments, capturing all the artillery and troops of the enemy on the line. Brig.-Gen. Wood's troops on Franklin pike took up the assault, capturing the enemy's intrenchments, and in his retreat captured eight pieces of artillery, something over six hundred prisoners, and drove the enemy within one mile of the Brentwood Hill pass.

B R-A-Y

Maj.-Gen. Steedman, commanding detachments of the different armies of the military division of the Mississippi, most nobly supported Gen. Wood's left, and bore a most honorable part in the operations of the day. I have ordered the pursuit to be continued in the morning at daylight, although the troops are very much fatigued. The utmost enthusiasm prevails. I must not forget to report the operations of Brig.-Gen. Johnson in successfully driving the enemy, with the coöperation of the gunboats under Lieut.-Commander Fitch, from their established batteries on the Cumberland River below the city of Nashville, and of the success of Brig.-Gen. Croxton's brigade in covering and returning our right and rear. In the operations of yesterday and to-day, although I have no report of the number of prisoners captured by Johnson's and Croxton's command, I know they have made a large number. I am also glad to be able to state that the number of prisoners captured yesterday greatly exceeds the number reported by telegraph last evening. The woods, fields and intrenchments are strewn with the enemy's small arms, abandoned in the retreat. In conclusion I am happy to state that all this has been effected with but a very small loss to us. Our loss probably does not exceed three thousand, and very few killed. GEO. H. THOMAS, Maj.-Gen. Com'dg.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 16—9 p. m.

During last night Hood withdrew his right from the river and took a position covering Hillsborough, Granny White and Franklin pikes, which line had been carefully prepared for just this contingency. He was driven from the first line easily, but the second was stubbornly defended, and at last heavily assaulted three times before succeeding. It was carried, however, and 20 pieces of artillery, 2,000 men, including Gen. Jackson, with the remains of his division, were taken, the enemy forced back two miles, and his army broken into two parts, one on the White pike and the other on the Franklin, with a range of bluffy hills between them. Steedman and Wood pressing down the latter, A. J. Smith, Schofield and the cavalry down the former. Small arms lay as thick on the contested line as the Rebels had stood there. Hood can't make another such day's fight, while Thomas is in good condition to press him. Caught more wagons; can't say number. Everybody, white and black, did splendidly.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Unofficial dispatches state that Thomas has thus far secured 5,000 prisoners and 49 pieces of artillery. A dispatch from an officer at Nashville to Frankfort, Ky., on Saturday the 17th says: Hood's army has been completely out-maneuvered. Hood certainly cannot receive a sufficient reënforcement of men and material to cope with this army. To-day the attack was renewed with great vigor and from several directions. When I left our plans were succeeding admirably. It was believed that we would yet take fully one-third of Hood's army prisoners. Indeed, some expressed it as their opinion that Gen. Thomas would destroy Hood's whole army, as its morale is now in a great measure gone, before it is able to recross the Tennessee River, at or near Florence, for which point it will certainly make. When our whole plan is developed you will, no doubt, regard it as one of the brightest of the war. The number of prisoners, stragglers, &c., captured and picked up will exceed five thousand, and there is more coming. The roads are in wretched condition. Our troops are in fine spirits, and the Rebels to a corresponding degree depressed.

SATURDAY, Dec. 17.—Mr. Stanton thus continues Gen. Thomas's account:

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1864.

Major-Gen. JOHN A. DIX: The following official reports were received this evening from Gen. Thomas, dated at his headquarters near Franklin:

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND, NEAR FRANKLIN, Tenn., Saturday, Dec. 17, 1864.

A report, just received from Major-Gen. Wilson, states that, at 6 p. m. to-day, he attacked and dispersed Stevenson's Division of Rebel infantry and a brigade of cavalry, capturing three guns. The 4th United States cavalry and Hatch's Division of cavalry, handsomely supported by Knipe's Division of cavalry, did the work, making several beautiful charges, breaking the Rebel infantry in all directions. Had it only been light the Rebel rear-guard would have been entirely destroyed. As it is it has been severely punished. The whole army will continue vigorous pursuit in the morning. This attack was made six miles beyond Franklin.

GEORGE H. THOMAS, Major-General.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF CUMBERLAND, NEAR FRANKLIN, TENN., Dec. 17—8 p. m.

We have pressed the enemy to-day beyond Franklin, capturing his hospitals, containing over 1,500 wounded, and about 150 of our wounded in addition to the above. Gen. Knipe, commanding a division of cavalry, drove the enemy's rear guard through Franklin to-day, capturing about 250 prisoners and five battle flags, with very little loss on our side. Citizens of Franklin represent Hood's army as being completely demoralized. In addition to the captures of yesterday, reported in my dispatches of last night, I have the honor to report the capture of Gen. Rucker and about 250 prisoners of the enemy's cavalry, in a fight that occurred about 8 o'clock last night between Gen. Rucker and Gen. Hatch of our cavalry. The enemy has been pressed to-day both in front and on both flanks. Brig.-Gen. Johnson succeeded in striking him on the flank just beyond Franklin, capturing quite a number of prisoners—number not yet reported. My cavalry is pressing him closely though, and I am very much in hopes of getting many more prisoners to-morrow.

GEO. H. THOMAS, Major-General.

Other dispatches (unofficial) from Nashville state that 1,000 prisoners were captured by Wilson, and that Gen. Rousseau, commanding at Murfreesboro, reports Forrest killed and 1,500 of his men captured. The Superintendent at Nashville reports that the Railroad from Nashville will be open to Franklin to-night, and will rapidly follow Thomas, thus furnishing him supplies and enabling him to push on after Hood.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Sec. of War.

SUNDAY, Dec. 18.—Mr. Stanton, on the 19th, telegraphed to Gen. Dix at New-York the previous day's doings of Gen. Thomas, thus:

The following report of his operations on yesterday has been received from Maj.-Gen. Thomas:

HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE CUMBERLAND, NEAR SPRING HILL, Dec. 18, 1864.

The enemy has been vigorously pursued to-day, but has studiously avoided any attack by my troops. I have succeeded in taking a few prisoners, some 200 or 300, but our captures are light in comparison with the successes of the past few days. The pursuit will be continued in the morning at as early an hour as the troops can march.

The following copies of orders found in Breckinridge's camp in East Tennessee are transmitted for your information:

HDQRS. WEST VIRGINIA AND EAST TENNESSEE, WYTHEVILLE, VA., Dec. 2, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 27.—In accordance with instructions received from the Ordnance Department at Richmond that it has become of vital importance to husband small-arms, ammunition and lead, the following order is published:

All lead which can be gleaned from battle-fields or otherwise obtained, will be collected by the brigade ordnance officers, and sent to the nearest arsenal. All arms to be relieved of their loads for cleaning. The balls should be drawn, if practicable, otherwise the loads should be discharged into boxes of sand or dirt so that the lead may be recovered and turned into the ordnance depot. The attention of the commanding officers is called to the necessity giving rise to this order, and its rigid enforcement is strictly enjoined by commanding officers. MAJ.-GEN. BRECKENRIDGE.

J. STODDARD JOHNSTON, A. A. G.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT WEST VIRGINIA AND EAST TENNESSEE, WYTHEVILLE, Va., Dec. 2, 1864.

CIRCULAR.—The attention of commanding officers is called to the scarcity of forage in this Department, and the absolute necessity of using economy in its consumption. Evidences of waste have been observed heretofore. The proper officers must in all cases superintend the issue of forage, and commanding officers and every company officer must give his strict personal attention.

T. H. MYERS, A. A. G.

I have found the railroad, thus far out, little disturbed, and my trains will be up by railroad in a day or two at the furthest. The telegraph is up with me now. I find, upon receiving more correct reports of the operations of the 16th inst., that Maj.-Gen. Ed. Johnson's entire division, with all the brigade commanders, was captured in the works which were captured by assault, besides destroying a brigade of the enemy's cavalry and capturing its commander, Brig.-Gen. Rucker. Among the captures made to-day are the Rebel Brig.-Gen. Quarles, wounded, and a number of Rebels, also wounded, lying in the houses by the roadside, unable to go away. GEO. H. THOMAS, Maj.-Gen. Commanding.

No report for to-day has reached the Department, except the following unofficial:

NASHVILLE, TENN., Monday, Dec. 19—1 P. M.

This forenoon the roads have been so heavy that little progress has been made. Our cavalry skirmished with the enemy a short distance south of Spring Hill, finding Forrest in command. The river is swelling rapidly.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

MONDAY, Dec. 19.—Our forces are advancing this morning at about eight o'clock. They captured a body of Rebel prisoners, estimated at 3,000 in number. Among them are one General and a number of commissioned officers. The capture was made between Brentwood, ten miles south of this city, on the Franklin Pike, and Harpeth River. An order for one thousand men to guard the prisoners has just been received by Gen. J. A. Miller, commandant of this post. They are expected to reach here during the day. The losses in the three brigades of the First Division of A. J. Smith's Corps are: In the 35th Iowa, 22 killed, 17 wounded. Among the killed is Col. J. G. Hill, commanding brigade. In the 12th Iowa, 1 killed, 17 wounded; in the 33d Missouri, 2 officers, 3 privates killed, 69 wounded; 7th Minnesota, 7 killed, 31 wounded. Col. Spaulding and his brigade of Tennessee cavalry greatly distinguished themselves yesterday in the heat of the battle. The 10th and 12th Tennessee regiments contributed largely to the success of the day. The total number of Rebel officers captured yesterday was as follows: 3 Colonels, 1 Lieut.-Colonel, 7 Majors, 40 Captains; 157 Lieutenants and two Surgeons. Among the prisoners taken yesterday were three Brigadier-Generals, not yet reported, viz.: Johnson, Smith and Rucker. All the Rebel prisoners are corraled in the stone quarry, from which the material for building the Capitol was excavated, some few hundred yards from the Capitol, which is called Andersonville. The penitentiary and all the public buildings are full. Half the prisoners are barefooted, and all are sleeping on beds of rock. During the fight of Spring Hill, Maj. Bowding of the Twelfth Tennessee was mortally wounded. His men swore to avenge his death, and they did it in yesterday's fight with desperate valor. Gov. Andrew Johnson was present on the field, in the vicinity of the last bloody charge, which he watched with intense interest. Additional particulars of yesterday's engagements are especially creditable to our cavalry, who contributed to the defeat of the Rebels by their effective coöperation. Gen. R. M. Johnson, instead of being killed as reported, has turned the Rebel flank, and crossed the Harpeth River, 11 miles hence. Large numbers of Rebel prisoners reached this city last night and this morning. They will be forwarded north at once. In the first charge made by the colored troops on the Rebel ranks, the 13th Regiment lost 256 men, and the 12th 119 men. Lieut. George Taylor, 13th U. S. Colored Regiment, is killed. The following officers of colored troops were wounded: Col. Hallenstein and Lieut. Babbitt, 13th Colored Regiment; Capts. Wright and Straight and Lieut. Grosvenor, 100th Colored Regiment. About 100 deserters came into our lines yesterday. The army to-day is undoubtedly attacking the rear of the Rebels, as heavy firing has been heard in the direction of their retreat, early this morning. The total number of prisoners captured in the two days' fight is estimated at 6,500. Hood's loss in men cannot be less than 15,000 since he advanced from Columbia toward Nashville. Gen. Thomas is determined to again give battle, and has ordered the pontoon trains forward to cross the streams between this city and Columbia. Trustworthy information confirms the conscription of several well-known citizens residing near Nashville, among them Mr. Gooch and John and Arthur Cheatham, who have been forwarded to Nashville. Among the incidents of yesterday's fight may be narrated the following: During a heavy artillery fire about noon, the Sixth Ohio battery, in two successive shots from their guns, blew up two caissons of a Rebel battery (Stamford's of Mississippi), the whole of which was afterward taken by our forces in the last assault.

A courier who left Franklin yesterday reports the Rebels in full retreat. Hatch's cavalry attacked the rear guard of the Rebels on Saturday, capturing large numbers of prisoners. The 4th corps crossed the Harpeth river at Franklin on Sunday morning. Thomas is pursuing the enemy to Duck River. We have nearly all Hood's artillery, and his army is really fearfully demoralized. All the rivers are high, and all the bridges in Hood's front destroyed. Our pontoons are up. We captured three thousand of the enemy's wounded at Franklin, Tenn. Since Thursday, we have captured and brought in just 6,000 prisoners, making 9,000, counting the wounded taken at Franklin. We have captured four Major-Generals, including Gens. Jackson and Johnston, as well as Brig.-Gens. Smith and Roger. Hood had sixty-five pieces of artillery. We have captured fifty-four pieces. The enemy's killed and wounded is a little less than our own. Our entire loss will not reach 3,500. None of our general officers were injured. This is the handsomest victory of the war. Forrest gave Murfreesborough another trial, and was repulsed, Rousseau and Milroy drove him from the town. Our late victory at Franklin was not exaggerated in the least. The Rebel Gen. Johnston says that their loss was 5,000 in killed and wounded. He states that six Rebel Generals were killed and four wounded in that engagement. He saw Maj.-Gen. Pat Cleburne's body. He was shot through the heart. The whole Rebel loss at Franklin on the 30th ult. was 6,000. Ours is officially reported at 1,900. Stoneman has given Breckinridge a cleaning out in East Tennessee, near the Virginia line, killing, wounding and capturing a large number, and getting most of his artillery. Gen. Ed. McCook is after Gen. Lyon in Kentucky, and he cannot escape. Murfreesborough, Bridgeport, Stevenson, Chattanooga and Knoxville all right.

TUESDAY, Dec. 20.—An officer of Gen. Rousseau's staff, direct from the headquarters of Gen. Thomas, arrived at Nashville on the evening of the 19th. Our forces were then at Spring Hill near Columbia. Hood's [army]—the remnant of it—was at Duck River, which [he w]as crossing as fast as possible. All our wounded left at Franklin were recovered. We also captured three numbers of Rebels severely wounded, including Gen. Quarles of Tennessee, formerly Superintendent of the banks of this State. Yesterday morning Gen. Hatch captured three guns from the Rebel cavalry force at Spring Hill. Our total captures of artillery from Hood amount to sixty-one pieces. The loss of Forrest in his attack on Murfreesborough on Thursday last is estimated at 1,500 killed and wounded, who fell into our hands. The Rebel army from all accounts has become utterly demoralized, is utterly unable to make a stand, and has scarcely any artillery left. The telegraph is working to Spring Hill. Trains will run to Franklin this morning. Gen. Schofield was in Columbia yesterday morning. Our total loss in wounded, in the battles of Thursday and Friday, will reach but little over 2,000 men.

A very important and interesting combination movement, in which the gunboats are coöperating with the army, is reported to have commenced, having for its object the obstructing of the fords and lines of retreat of Hood's forces over the Tennessee River. If the main object is not fully secured, Hood at least will be seriously perplexed by occasion of it, and his army made to sustain still further heavy losses.

GEN. SHERMAN'S OPERATIONS.

Gen. Sherman has triumphantly executed his march across the State of Georgia to the Atlantic Ocean; on the 10th he reached Savannah, and on Dec 13 took Fort McAllister, opened communication with the fleet, and completed the investment of Savannah. The three following dispatches tell the story thus far:

Maj.-Gen. DIX, *New-York*:—Dispatches have been received to-day from Gen. Foster, who had a personal interview on the morning of Wednesday, the 14th inst., with Gen. Sherman, at Fort McAllister, which had been taken by assault on the preceding day. Savannah was closely besieged, and its capture, with the Rebel forces there, was confidently expected. It was to be summoned in two days, and if not surrendered Sherman would open his batteries upon it. Gen. Foster reports that Sherman's army is in splendid condition, having lived, on its march, on the turkeys, chickens, sweet potatoes, and other good things of the richest part of Georgia.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Maj.-Gen JNO. A. DIX, *New-York*: An official dispatch from Gen. Sherman was received to-day, dated near midnight, December 13th, on the gunboat Dandelion, Ossabaw Sound. It was written before Gen. Foster had reached him. He reports, besides some military details of future operations (which are omitted), the following interesting particulars of his operations:

"ON BOARD DANDELION, OSSABAW SOUND, Dec. 13—11:50 p. m.

"To-day at 5 p. m. Gen. Hazen's Division of the Fifteenth Corps carried Fort McAllister by assault, capturing its entire garrison and stores. This opened to us the Ossabaw Sound, and I pushed down to this gunboat to communicate with the fleet. Before opening communication, we had completely destroyed all the railroads leading into Savannah, and invested the city. The left is on the Savannah River, three miles above the city, and the right on the Ogeechee at King's Bridge. The army is in splendid order, and equal to anything. The weather has been fine, and supplies were abundant. Our march was most agreeable, and we were not at all molested by guerrillas. We reached Savannah three days ago, but, owing to Fort McAllister, could not communicate; but now we have McAllister we can go ahead. We have already captured two boats on the Savannah River, and prevented their gunboats from coming down. I estimate the population of Savannah at 25,000 and the garrison at 15,000. Gen. Hardee commands. We have not lost a wagon on the trip, but have gathered in a large supply of negroes, mules, horses, &c., and our teams are in far better condition than when we started. My first duty will be to clear the army of surplus negroes, mules and horses. We have utterly destroyed over two hundred miles of rails, and consumed stores and provisions that were essential to Lee's and Hood's armies. The quick work made with McAllister, and the opening of communication with our fleet, and the consequent independence for supplies, dissipates all their boasted threats to head me off and starve the army. I regard Savannah as already gained.

Yours truly,
W. T. SHERMAN, Major-General.

The following letter from Admiral Dahlgren to the Secretary of the Navy was received on the 17th:

WARSAW SOUND, Dec. 14, 1864.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES: I write this in the same cabin with Gen. Sherman. He came around here with Gen. Foster to meet me. I was engaged in buoying Savannah River to push up an iron-clad to assist in attacking Savannah by water, and left this morning to visit this place, where I have the Passaic and Pawnee, then to Ossabaw, where is the flagship and Sonoma, in the hope of communicating with Gen. Sherman. Meanwhile, he had just walked over the fort, McAllister, that guards the Ogeechee, and descended to the flagship. Gen. Foster came in afterward, and brought him here.

JOHN A. DAHLGREN.

The following telegram in cypher was received at Washington at 10 p. m., December 14, 1864, from Port Royal Harbor, via Fortress Monroe:

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, *Secretary of the Navy*:

SIR: I have just received a communication from Sherman's Army. He is a few miles from Savannah and in fine spirits. I shall bring all my available force into connection with the army.

A dispatch is forwarded with this. Very respectfully,

J. A. DAHLGREN, Rear Admiral.

A bearer of dispatches from Admiral Dahlgren arrived in Washington on the 15th with the following important dispatch from the Secretary of the Navy:

FLAG STEAMER PHILADELPHIA, PORT ROYAL HARBOR, S. C., Monday, Dec. 12, 1864.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, *Secretary of the Navy*—Sir: It is my happiness to apprise the Department that Gen. Sherman with his army is near Savannah, and I am in communication with him. In view of his probable arrival I had stationed severa steamers at different points, and had come down from the Tillifinney yesterday in order to be at hand. I had not to wait many hours. This morning about six o'clock the Dandelion arrived with Capt. Duncan and two scouts, Sergeant Myron J. Cormick, and George W. Quimby, bearing the following lines from Gen. Howard:

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE, NEAR SAVANNAH CANAL, GA.

To Commander of the United States Naval Forces in Savannah, Ga.:

SIR: We have met with perfect success thus far. Troops in fine spirits and near by.

Respectfully, O. O. HOWARD, Maj.-Gen.

Capt. Duncan states that our forces were in contact with the Rebels a few miles outside of Savannah. He says that Sherman's Army are not in want of anything. Perhaps no event could give greater satisfaction to the country than that which I announce and I beg leave to congratulate the United States Government on its occurrence. It may perhaps be exceeding my province, but I cannot refrain from expressing the hope that the Department will commend Capt. Duncan and his companions to the Hon. Secretary of War for some mark of approbation, for the success in establishing communications between Gen. Sherman and the fleet. It was an enterprise that required both skill and courage. I have the honor to be very respectfully your obedient servant,

J. A. DAHLGREN, Rear Admiral,
Commanding S. A. B. Squadron.

The following extract of a letter from Gen. Sherman written before he started upon his march, shows not only that he reached the point at which he aimed, but that he accomplished the difficult work some 12 or 14 days earlier than he expected:

KINGSTON, Ga., 9 p. m., Nov. 3, 1864.

Capt. PENNOCK, *U. S. N., Mound City.*

In a few days I will be off for salt water, and hope to meet my old friend, D. D. Porter, again. Will you be kind enough to write him and tell him to look out for me about Christmas, from Hilton Head to Savannah. W. T. SHERMAN, Major-General.

That Gen. Sherman had captured Savannah before the steamer which brought the above dispatch had fairly got out of the harbor of Port Royal, is probable, from the fact that the messenger who reached here this morning, says that when coming out of the harbor, and when too late to communicate by signals, the whole fleet began to fire a salute. Upon looking toward the vessels they were being gaily decorated with flags in honor of some great victory. The opinion that prevailed on board the steamer was that since she had left the wharf news had reached the Admiral of the fall of Savannah.

Augusta, Ga., papers of the 7th, received at Baltimore, have the following:

Beauregard arrived at Augusta on the morning of the 6th.

The Constitutionalist of the 7th says: "Yankee prisoners report that Kilpatrick was shot through the head and mortally wounded in the fight on Sunday at Walter's Bridge."

The Chronicle of the 7th says: "Passengers by the Savannah train on Monday afternoon report all quiet in the neighborhood of Pocotaligo. Another report states the enemy were advancing their main column on Coosawatchie. It is also reported the enemy captured two guns on Fleetspur Creek on Sunday. Nothing definite, however, was obtained."

The steamer United States arrived at Fortress Monroe on the 14th from Port Royal, with a large number of returned prisoners, estimated at between seven and eight hundred. The exchange of prisoners, under Col. Mulford, was progressing favorably. Nothing definite in relation to Gen. Sherman's movements could be learned by the prisoners who came on the United States; but the firing of his guns in the direction of the Savannah River was distinctly heard for several days prior to her sailing from Port Royal; and the forces that the Rebel Government have been able to assemble have been placed in the intrenchments surrounding Savannah and Charleston, so that Gen. Sherman will meet with very little resistance until he reaches the suburbs of Savannah, where great preparations have been [illegible] made to give him a bloody reception in case he assaults [illegible] the city.

Arrival a[t] Sherman's Headquarters [...] Army [...] all—Officers off Duty Ordered to Join th[e]ir Commands.

WASH[INGTON], Wednesday, Dec. 21, 1864.

The Post-Office D[e]partment has received the following dispatch from Sp[e]cial-Agent Markland:

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 20, 1864.

Hon. W. DENNISON, *Postmaster-General*: I have just arrived here. Left Gen. Sherman on the evening of the 16th. The great mail was distrib[u]ted to the army on that day. The best health and spirits prevails.

A. H. MARKLAND, Special Agent Post-office Department.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJ.-GEN'L'S. OFFICE, WASHINGTON, Dec. 19, 1864.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 455—*Extract 25.*—All officers and detachments absent from Gen. Sherman's army, and not on duty with Gen. Thomas, will immediately join their respective commands near Savannah, via New-York. The Quartermaster at New-York will furnish transportation. By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant-Adjutant-General.

Obituary.

WILLIAM LEWIS DAYTON.

The death of the Hon. William Lewis Dayton, U. S. Minister to France, is announced by the last arrivals as having taken place in Paris, Dec. 1, by a sudden attack of apoplexy. Mr. Dayton was born at Baskingridge, N. J., Feb. 17, 1807, and had consequently almost completed his fifty-eighth year at the time of his death. He was graduated at Princeton College in 1825, and after passing through the usual course of legal study, was admitted to the bar in 1830. In 1837, he was elected a member of the New-Jersey Senate; in 1838 he was appointed an associate judge of the Supreme Court, which office he resigned in 1841; and in 1842, succeeded Mr. Southard as U. S. Senator, serving in that capacity until March, 1851. Upon retiring from Congress he resumed the practice of his profession in Trenton; in 1856 was nominated by the Republican National Convention as the candidate for Vice-President, Mr. Fremont being the candidate for President; and upon the accession of Mr. Lincoln in 1861, received the appointment of U. S. Minister to France, which office he retained till the time of his decease. Mr. Dayton was a prominent Free-Soil Whig during his Congressional career, was an intimate adviser of President Taylor, and an ardent supporter of the policy of his administration. He defended the admission of California into the Union as a Free State, voted against the Fugitive Slave Bill, and was in favor of the abolition of the slave-trade in the District of Columbia. Mr. Dayton was a man of high personal integrity, modest and conciliatory in his deportment, of polished and winning manners, clear and accurate in his perceptions, and eloquent in debate. He had gained great favor among the American residents at Paris by his firm maintenance of the rights of his country, and his zeal for her cause in the hour of her trial.

[Advertisement.]

THE JANUARY NUMBER OF THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY

is just published, with articles in prose and poetry by BRYANT, LONGFELLOW, HAWTHORNE, LOWELL, HOLMES, WHITTIER, BAYARD TAYLOR, MRS. STOWE, and several others of the FIRST AMERICAN WRITERS.

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[Advertisement.]

MARTIN LUTHER once thought he saw the devil in his chamber, and threw an inkstand at his head. Had they had in those days AYER'S PILLS to exorcise all the devils that come from a disorded stomach, his laughable fright would not have become a matter of history.

[Advertisement.]

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See WHEELER & WILSON'S Button-Hole Machine.

[Advertisement.]

THREE FIRST PREMIUMS have been awarded to the GROVER & BAKER SEWING-MACHINE COMPANY at the Fair of the Queens County (New-York) Agricultural Society, recently held at Jamaica, viz: For the best Family Machine, the best Manufacturing Machine, and the best Machine work.

COMMERCIAL MATTERS.

Sales at the Stock Exchange—Dec. 21.

U. S. 6s 5-20 Cou.	Cum. Coal Pref.	Reading.
1,000......108¼	100........46¾	115........115
25,000..n.is.108¼	American Coal.	500........114¾
45,000..n.is.108¼	100........86	100........114¾
U. S. 5s 10-40 Cp.	100........85½	200....s30.114¾
3,000......101¾	100........85¾	Sixth Avenue.
28,000......101¾	Quicksilver Min.	12.........110
U. S. 6s 1 Yr. Cer.	100........94¾	Mich. Central.
1,000........97	100....b10. 95	200........118
Brook. C. 6s W. L.	100........95	100....s30.117¼
1,000........112	Mariposa Min.	200........117¾
Tr. Notes 7 3-10.	100........34½	200........117¼
30,000 A&O....[illegible]	50.........33½	Ill. Central.
Ill. Coup. 6s 1879	Smith Par. Gold.	100....s10.126
1,000........103½	400........7	200........126¼
N. Carolina 6s	Schuylkill Coal.	200....s30.125¾
1,000........58	200........8	Clev. & Pitt.
Missouri State 6s.	Excl. Petroleum.	100........103¼
1,000........63½	200........5½	500........103
Mis. 6's Pa. R. Is.	N. Y. Cent	100........102¾
5,000........69	25.........115¼	Chi. & N. West.
Ohio & Miss. cer	300........115	100....s30. 40¾
20,000.....33¼	100........114¾	200....b30. 41
30,000.....33¼	50.........114¾	500........40¾
1,000...sm.. 33¾	200....s10.114¾	200........40¾
N. Y. Cent. 6's.	1,000..s30.114	200....s30. 40¾
5,000.......106¼	200........114¼	300........40¾
N. Y. Cent. 7s 76	200....b30.114¾	C. & N. W. Pref.
1,000........118	Erie Railway.	25.........73
Erie 3d Mortg.	300........90¾	50.........72
1,000........115	400....b30. 91	500........71¾
Ch&N.W. 1st M.	1,100......90¾	400........71¾
6,000........99	100.....b7. 90¾	100....b30. 72¼
Cleve&Pitt. 4 M.	100....b10. 90¾	600....s30. 71¾
2,000........82	100.....b7. 90¾	Chi. & Rock Is.
3,000........81	100....s30. 90¾	300.....b5. 106¼
13,000.......80	900....s30. 90¾	200....s10.106¼
American Ex. Bk	200........90¾	100........106¼
21..........129½	100........90¾	Pit. Ft. W. & C.
Fourth Nat. Bk.	Erie Preferred.	50.........101
50..........99	50.........101	100....s30.102
Hudson River.	Del. & Hud.	500....s10.102
200.........115¼	115........212	300........102
300....s30.115¾	10.........214	300....s30.101¾
Mich. So. & N.I.	100........215	100....b30.102¾
200.........72	100........217	Del. Lack. & W.
100....s60. 71¼	Canton Co.	10.........230
	100...b15.. 35¼	

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 21—P. M.

Gold opened at 222¼, advanced to 224¼, and fell to 222¾. From this point it rose to 224, and closed at 225. The only firmness is that given by the purchases to cover short contracts, and buying for a new advance has ceased.

Government stocks are steady, with a moderate business. The 10-40s are offered at private sale under the Treasury price, and as a natural consequence few are sold by the Government. Jobbers in Federal stocks are not disposed to buy any large amounts at current rates, in the absence of any definite policy by the financial head of the country. As long as the Treasury hesitates, it is idle to look for confidence among the people. For 10-40s, 101¼ has been accepted, closing at 101¾; 5-20s sold at 109¾, and closed at 108¾; 7.30s, gold-bearing, at 121@123.

Railway Stocks are all lower, and pressed for sale upon a dull market. At the Stock Exchange, New-York Central fell 1¼, Erie 1, Hudson River ¾, Michigan Southern ¾, Michigan Central 2¼, Reading 1¾, Illinois Central 1¾, Cleveland & Pittsburgh 2¾, North-Western 1¼, do. preferred 1¾, Rock Island ¾, Fort Wayne 1¼. At the Second Board still lower rates were made, Cleveland & Pittsburgh selling at 97¾@98, Michigan Central 116¼@116¾, Hudson River 115¼@115¾. Rock Island continues strong, and sells readily at 106¼@106¾.

Money was in demand at 7 per cent among stock houses, and accounts were not made up as early as usual. The subscribers to the 10-40s are among the neediest borrowers, in the absence of demand for that loan. Country banks on the point of conversion into National Banks, have been calling loans from stock houses to some extent. There is a strong movement among the city banks toward the National plan, and early in 1865 a good many banks will be re-organized. This state of affairs is not calculated to make money more abundant on call. The usual gathering of funds to meet dividends and interest due at New-Year's is taking place, with the ordinary result, and until this money is restored to use no lower rates can be expected.

The business of the Sub-Treasury was: Receipts, $2,660,661 69; for Customs, $196,000; Payments, $2,806,996 58; on account Loan, $393,500; Balance, $32,819,812 73.

Freights are very dull, and rates are almost nominal. The engagements to Liverpool are 350 tuns Logwood, 10s.; 100 hhds. Tobacco, 22s. 6d., and 100 tuns Oil Cake on private terms. To London, 500 tcs. Beef, 3s. 6d., and 100 bales Hops at ¼d.

The following shows the exports (exclusive of

Exchange is dull. The rates are 109¾ for bankers' sterling, 60 days; 108@108¼ for merchants'; and francs 5.10@5.15.

The steamship Canada, for Liverpool, took out from Boston $62,000 in specie.

specie) from New-York to foreign ports for the week ending Dec. 19, and since Jan. 1:

	1862.	1863.	1864.
For the week........	$3,457,636	$2,606,113	$5,112,919
Previously reported.	149,571,922	163,294,343	203,118,760
Since Jan. 1........	$153,029,558	$165,900,456	$208,131,679

We are requested to call attention to an advertisement in another column of 100,000 acres of land in the Wyandotte Valley, West Virginia. We have no knowledge of this enterprise, other than that some of the gentlemen whose names we observe connected with it are known here to be of the highest respectability.

Grain, Provisions, and other Markets.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 21, 1864.

ASHES—The market for both kinds is dull, and owing to the light receipts and unsettled market for Exchange, prices are entirely nominal.

BEESWAX has been only in moderate demand but prices are steady at 72@73c. for Yellow Western.

COTTON—There has been a better inquiry to-day, and prices are firmer, closing at $1 24@$1 25 for Middlings: sales of about 600 bales.

COFFEE—The market remains quiet, and for the present all quotations are nominal; we have only to note a sale of 100 bags Maracaibo at 19½c., gold.

COAL—The market is without much change for Domestic, the supply is increasing and the consumption is not so large as last year. We quote from yard at $10@$12; Foreign is in brisk demand and not plenty; the sales include 340 tuns P. C. Gas Cannel, 50 tuns Welsh Steam and 300 tuns Newcastle Gas, on terms we could not learn—supposed at higher rates.

CANDLES are quiet but steady at 32@35c. for Adamantine; 45c. for Sperm, and 55c. for Patent.

COPPER—American Ingot has been in less active demand but owing to the small stock prices are well-sustained. We quote at 49½@50c. for Lake and Baltimore: New Sheathing and Yellow Metal are steady at 65c. for the former and 50c. for the latter.

DRUGS AND DYES—There has been only a moderate inquiry since our last, but prices are unchanged. small sales of Caustic Soda at 11¾@13c.; Bi Carb. Soda, 10c.; Soda Ash, 6¼c.; Para Balsam Copaiba, $1 17½; Cream Tartar, 74@75c.; Quinine, $3 12½@$3 25; American White Sugar Lead, 41@42c.—at the close the market is firm; Soda Ash is scarce and wanted.

DYEWOODS have been rather quiet but without change in prices. We quote Camwood, $100; Lima Wood, $160@$165; Fustic, $55@$60 for Savanilla; and Logwood, $40 for Honduras, $25 50@$27 for St. Domingo, and $26@$27 for Jamaica.

FLOUR AND MEAL—The demand for Western and State Flour is less active, owing to the storm, but the market is firm, and the low and medium grades are ten cents ₱ bbl. better. Most holders are not disposed to sell. Trade and Family brands are heavy and irregular; the sales are 6,700 bbls. at $9 65@$10 for Superfine State; $10 20@$10 45 for Extra State; $10 50@$10 75 for Fancy State; $10 35@$10 75 for the low grades of Western Extra; $11@$11 25 for Shipping Ohio; $11 30@$12 for Trade and Family brands, and $11 25@$14 for St. Louis Extras. Canadian Flour is not active, but prices are 10c. ₱ bbl. better; sales of 250 bbls. at $10 20@$10 35 for the low grades of Extra, and $10 40@$12 for Trade and Family Extras. Southern Flour is very dull, but there is no essential change in prices; sales of 300 bbls. at $10 75@$12 25 for mixed to good Superfine Country Baltimore, &c., and $12 40@$15 for Trade and Family brands. Rye Flour is dull and unchanged; sales of 60 bbls. at $8 50@$9 25. Corn Meal is dull, and prices are heavy. Buckwheat Flour is quiet at $4 78@$5 20 per 100 lbs.

FRUIT—Raisins are in better supply; with the decline in Gold, holders were compelled to lower their prices. We quote New at $6@$6 10 for Bunch, and $6 30@$6 35 for Layers; other descriptions are dull and heavy; sales of Currants at 20½c., Citron, 35@37c., Peanuts, 35@37c., N. O. Oranges $9, and Havana do. $11@$12 50.

FISH—Dry Cod are in reduced stock, prices are firm and favor the seller; the business, however, has been limited. We quote at $8 25@$9 50 for Grand Bank and St. George's. Mackerel are in fair demand, but prices are irregular; Shore are firm and scarce, while Bay is heavy. We quote Mass. at $22 for Shore No. 1, and $16 for No. 2 do., and $14@$14 50 for No. 3 do.; Bay at $16 25@$16 50 for No. 1, and $14@$14 25 for No. 2 do. Pickled Herrings are scarce and firm at $7@$9; Smoked do. are firm at 52½@55c. for Scaled, and 45@48c. for No. 1.

FEATHERS—Western are firm but quiet; small sales of Prime at 83c., cash.

GRAIN—The Wheat market opened moderately active and steady, but closed 2c. per bush. lower, and very heavy for Spring; the demand is chiefly for milling; the sales are 40,600 bush., including 13,600 bush. Chicago Spring at $2 25@$2 27; 14,000 bush. Amber Club at $2 33; 11,000 bush. Red Western at $2 47@$2 50; and 2,000 bush. Amber State at $2 55. Barley is inactive, and prices heavy. Barley Malt is quiet, but firmly held. Oats are 1c. lower and very dull; we have only to note small sales of Western at $1 05, and State at 97c. Rye is heavy and prices are nominal at $1 70 for Western, and $1 85 for State. Corn is inactive; Old is dull and lower; New is in better order and fairly active; sales of 2,700 bush. at $1 85 for Mixed Western, in store, and New Jersey Yellow and Pennsylvania at $1 70@$1 75.

GUNNY BAGS are a little more active, but prices are easier; sales in Boston at 32@35¼c.

GUNNY CLOTH is quiet, and prices are nominal.

HOPS—There has been a good inquiry for the home trade, but prices have undergone no material change; sales at 25@38c. for common to prime old, and 45@54c. for fair to choice new crop.

HEMP—Only a moderate inquiry prevails but prices are without change; small sales of Manila at 17¼@17½c; Sisal, 16¼@17c.; American at $160@$200 for undressed, and $310@$375 for dressed, and Jute at $250@$260.

HAY—The inquiry is fair and the market is very firm, the arrivals are light; the sales are 260 bales at $1 50@$1 60 for shipping, and $1 70@$1 75 for the city trade.

HIDES—A good steady demand has prevailed from the trade since our last, but prices have declined, owing to the heaviness in gold, the market closing quiet. We quote all kinds as follows: Dry Hides—Buenos Ayres, 35@36c.; Buenos Ayres and Montevideo, 34@35¼c.; Rio Grande, 32@32½c.; Orinico, 31@32c.; California, 32@32½c.; Central American, 29@30c.; Matamoros, 29@30c.; Vera Cruz, 28@29c.; Tampico, 28@29c.; Bogota, 29@30c.; Maracaibo, 28@29c.; Bahia, 27@28c.; Porto Cabello, 27@28c.; Truxillo, 26@27c.; Rio Hacha, dry and pickled, 24@25c.; Curacoa, 21@23c.; St. Domingo and Port au Platt, 21@23c.; Western, 25@26c.; Minas, 29@30c.; Buenos Ayres and Rio Grande Kips, 32@33c.; Sierre Leone, 37@38c.; Gambia and Bissau, 27@28c.; Zanzibar, 23@25c. Dry Salted Hides—Chili, 26@27c.; Payta, 26½@27½c.; Maranham, 24@25c.; Pernambuco, 24@25c.; Bahia, 23@24c.; Matamoros, 24@25c.; Maracaibo, 21@22c.; Savanilla, 22@23c.; Sandwich Island, 22@23c. Wet Salted Hides—Buenos Ayres, 15¼@16¼c.; Rio Grande, 16@17c.; California, 16@16½c.; New Orleans, 13@13½c.; Western and Country, 13@13½c.; City Slaughter, 13@13½c.

INDIGO—The market is quiet, but prices generally are sustained; sales of Oude at $2 20, Manila $1 [illegible]@$1 80, and Guatemala on private terms.

IRON—The market for Pig has been very quiet but there is no particular change in prices; we quote Scotch at $60@$65, and American at $57@$60; other descriptions inactive, and prices are nominal; English Bars, $165@$180 for Common, and $180@$185 for Refined; American do. $140@160 for Common and Refined.

LEATHER—The market for Hemlock Sole has ruled very quiet, but prices have undergone no particular change; Buenos Ayres over weights are scarce and firmly held; Oak Sole is fairly active at former rates; French and American Calf Skins are inactive and prices are nominal; we quote as follows: Hemlock, Buenos Ayres, Heavy, 42@43c.; Hemlock, Buenos Ayres, Middle, 40@41c.; Hemlock, Buenos Ayres, Light, 38@39½c.; Hemlock, California, Heavy, 41@42c.; Hemlock, California, Middle, 40@41c.; Hemlock, California, Light, 38@39c.; Hemlock, Orinoco, &c., Heavy, 38@39c.; Hemlock, Orinoco, Middle, 36½@37½c.; Hemlock, Orinoco, Light, 37@38c.; Hemlock, Good Damaged, all kinds and weights, 35@37c.; Hemlock, Poor Damaged, all kinds and weights, 26@27c.; Hemlock, in the Rough, 36@38c.; Oak Slaughter, Heavy, 50@54c.; Oak Slaughter, Middle, 50@51c.; Oak Slaughter, Light, 48@52c.; Oak Slaughter, Cropped, Middle, 50@56c.; Oak Slaughter, Cropped, Light, 55@57c.; Oak Slaughter, in the Rough, 50@55c.; Oak Slaughter, Bellies, 25@28c.

LATHS have been only moderately active, but prices are steady at $2 50.

LUMBER—Eastern Spruce and Pine are quiet, but steady, at $23@$27, usual terms.

LEAD—Pig is heavy and lower, closing quiet: sales of Foreign at $14 25@$14 50, and Domestic $15@$15 50; Bar $18, and Sheet and Pipe $22.

MOLASSES—The business has been moderate, and we have only to note small sales common to choice new crop New-Orleans at $1 35@$1 50.

NAVAL STORES of all descriptions have favored the buyer since our last, and the market closes dull; we quote Spirits of Turpentine at $2 10@$2 20; Rosin at $19@$22 for Common, and $22@$26 for Strained and No. 2, and $29@$35 for No. 1 White and Pale; Tar, $6@$9 for American, and $11 for Foreign.

OILS—Linseed ruled steady at $1 40@$1 45; Fish Oils are quiet but firm at $1 50 for Crude Whale; $2 15@$2 20 for do. Sperm. Lard Oil is scarce and firm at $2 15@$2 20; Kerosene at 95@98c.; and Camphene at $4 50.

OIL CAKE—The demand is fair and the market is quite firm; sales of 50 tuns New Western in mats at $77 50—now held at $80. City is scarce at $82 50@$85.

OIL MEAL—The market for this article is very quiet, and prices are unsettled.

PROVISIONS—There has been more activity in Pork to-day, but the market has been excited and very unsettled, opening at an advance, but subsequently declined and closing heavy, most of the improvement was lost; for future delivery we hear of sales of 3,950 bbls. Old Mess (1863-4) buyer's option January, at $42 12½@$42 50; 4,500 bbls. New Mess (1864-5) seller's option January, at $42 50; and 500 bbls. New Mess (1864-5) seller February, at $43; the sales cash and regular are 10,550 bbls. at $39 75@$41 25 for Old Mess (1863-4), the latter rate for a small lot, closing at $40 50; $42@$42 25 for New Mess (1864-5); $37@$37 25 for New Prime; $41 for City Prime; $33@$39 50 for Western Prime, and $40 for Thin Mess. Beef is heavy, the receipts are large; sales of 600 bbls. at $20@$22 for Plain Mess, and $22@$24 for Extra Mess, and 1,000 bbls. Navy Mess at $27. Tierce Beef is dull and nominal. Beef Hams are quiet at previous prices. Cut Meats are in fair demand and firm; sales of 500 pkgs. at 18c. for Shoulders; 20½@21c. for Pickled Hams, and 22@23c. for Bagged Hams. Bacon is firm and in fair demand; sales of 750 boxes Cumberland Cut, for Dec. and Jan., at 20½c.; 500 do. Jan. and Feb., at 20½c.; 100 do., January, at 20½c., all seller's option; 250 boxes Long Ribbed, January, at 21½@21½c. Dressed Hogs are firmer; we quote at 17c. for Western, and 17½c. for City. Lard is steady and in fair request; sales of 2,600 pkgs. at 20@22c. for No. 1; 21@24c. for Fair to Prime Steam, and 24½@25c. for Kettle.

RICE—The market continues dull and heavy and prices nominal.

SUGARS—Raw Sugars have been quiet and prices remain nominally the same as yesterday; we have only to note 800 boxes Havana on private terms. Fair to good refining is quoted at 18@18½c.; refined are dull at 29c. for hards.

SALT—Liverpool has been in more active demand, in prices, however, there is no particular change; but at the close there is a buoyant feeling; large sales have been made at $2 25 for Ground; $4 75 for Fine Ashton's; $3 75 for do. Worthington's, and $3 50@$3 65 for Marshall's and Jeffrey's and Darcy's. West India has arrived more liberally, but with a good demand; there is no change in prices; sales of 14,000 bush. Turk's Island and 3,000 bbls. Anguilla at 70 cents.

SOAP—Castile remains steady, with a moderate business at 24c.

SPELTER is inactive; we quote Lehigh at 14c., and Silesian at 6½@7c. in gold.

SPICES—There has been only a moderate inquiry since our last, but prices generally have ruled quite firm. We quote: Cassia at $1; Mace, $1 30@$1 40; No. 1 Nutmegs, $1 85@$1 95; Pepper, 45@46c.; Jamaica Pimento, 33@33½c.; Cloves, 55@57½c.; and African Ginger, 36@38c.

SEEDS—A quiet but firm market for Clover Seed; the supply is very light; sales of small lots at 25@26c; Timothy Seed is steady at $5 75@$6 per bush.; Rough Flax Seed is selling in small quantities at $3 50@$3 65 per bush.

STEARIN—The demand is light, but the market is firm; the stock is moderate; sales of 3,000 lbs. good White Western at 24½c. cash.

TALLOW—The market is quiet, but prices are without much change; sales of 60,000 lbs. at 17@17½c. for Western, and 17¼@17½c. for City.

TEA—The market has been very unsettled. Prices have fluctuated with gold. Oolongs are dull and lower, while Greens are steady and unchanged. The sales for the past two or three days have been light.

TIN—Pig has been in less active demand, and prices favored the buyer; the market has been unsettled and very irregular. Straight and English are quiet at the close at 59@60½c. Plates are dull and lower. We quote: I. C. Charcoal at $20@$21 50; I. C. Coke, $17 50@$18; Coke Terne, $15 50@$16; and Charcoal Terne, $18@$19.

TOBACCO has been very dull and the market very unsettled; owing to the decline and fluctuations in gold, manufactured is dull and nominal. We quote Light Leaf as follows: Common and Frosted Lugs, 9½@10c.; Sound Lugs, 11@13c.; Low Leaf, 14@16c.; Medium do., 17@20c.; Good do., 21@24c.; Fine do., 25@28c.; Selections, 29@35c. Heavy Western and Clarksville, as follows: Sound Lugs, 14@17c.; Low Leaf, 18@22c.; Medium do., 23@26c.; Good do., 27@30c.; Fine do., 32@38c.; Selections, 40@48c. Seed Leaf is in moderate demand from manufacturers at steady rates.

WOOL—There has been no particular change in either domestic or foreign Fleeces since our last, but the business has been much restricted by the unsettled market for gold and exchange; manufacturers are only purchasing in a small way; it is understood that their wants, as a general thing, are not very pressing; we quote: American Fleeces at 95c.@$1 05 for ¼@¾ Merino and Native and ¼ do.; 90c.@$1 10 for Full Blood and Saxony Fleeces; Pulled, 70@80c. for No. 1, and 90c.@$1 for Superfine and Extra; California, 25@65c. for common to fine unwashed; South American, at 50@60c. for common washed; 33@55c. for unwashed Mestiza and Merino; 55@65c. for Entre Rios; 24@34c. for unwashed Creole; Cape Good Hope, 50@60c. for unwashed; East India, 25@90c. for washed; African, 30@50c. for unwashed, and 50@70c. for washed; Smyrna, 35@45c. for unwashed, and 55@70c. for washed, and Syrian at 38@43 for unwashed.

WHISKY—The market opened better and somewhat excited, there being buyers at $2 25, but on the receipt of later news from Washington prices declined; sales of 650 bbls. at $2 20@$2 25 for Western, closing heavy at $2 20.

N. Y. Wholesale Prices of Country Produce.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, Dec. 21, 1864.

[Expressly for THE N. Y. TRIBUNE by our own Reporter.]

The following are the current rates of articles in good condition, as sold by commission houses at wholesale. Shippers receive 5 to 10 ₱ cent. less, deducted for commissions, beside freight and other charges.

BEANS AND PEAS.

Beans continue in request, with few offering; small lots of prime marrows have sold as high as $3 50. We quote:

Beans, pea, and medium prime ₱ bush....	$2 75@$2 80
Beans, kidney, ₱ bush........	3 00@ 3 10
Beans, marrow, prime........	3 00@ 3 25
Beans, inferior........	1 75@ 2 25
Peas, Marrowfat........	1 50@ 2 00
Peas, Canadian, ₱ bush........	1 50@ — —

BUTTER.

The recent fall in gold has almost entirely stopped foreign shipments, as the 45@47c.—the highest prices they can pay at the present rates of exchange—offered by shippers, is quite below the ideas of holders. Small lots are going to California, but at 30c. nominal in the San Francisco market, no one can afford to send prime butter to the Pacific coast. Nearly all the demand, therefore, is for home consumption, and the scarcity of fine butter causes an active inquiry. Fancy Delaware has been sold at 55c. and even 58c., with a little Orange County, in pails, at 60c., but the majority of *good* State butter is sold at 50@52c. We quote:

Sussex County, firkins........	53@54
State Firkins and Tubs, good to choice........	50@52
Chicago and North-Western........	35@42
Western Reserve, good to choice........	43@48
Central Ohio........	37@40
State Tubs, Welsh, good to choice........	48@50
Pennsylvania tubs and pails, fair to choice........	47@50
Summer heated Western........	35@38

CHEESE.

There is no perceptible change in the Cheese market and trade is dull. Factory has been sold, in a small way, at 23½c.—some very fine is held still higher. Very little is doing in the shipping line. We quote:

State, factory, good to choice ₱ lb........	22@23
State, fair to good........	18@20
State, dairies, choice........	20@22
English dairy (Conn.)........	20@22
English dairy (Ohio)........	20@22
Vermont Dairy........	19@20
Pineapple........	28@30
Ohio, prime........	18@20
Skim milk Cheese........	15@18

EGGS.

Fresh Eggs have been sold, by the single barrel, at 50c. per dozen. The stock of limed is large and variable

See Eighth Page.

Farewell.

BY COL. A. J. D. DONAHUE.

Blessings, brother and
Nay, my first mate to be!
Ere we part, ere we depart
Take good sailors all!
Best to those who fall
Best from our Admiral.
Sending the sun sought
Where the Gulf-Stream's fought
Where the seaboard's fleet
We shall dogs on the sleet,
Where the Gulf-Stream again
Sets our sails from
Liberty's topes sight!
Fear, not the sea, dear
Lead, lead, lead, dear
Lead, lead, lead, dear
Lead, lead, lead, dear
Dears drops the anthem sung
Dears drops the anthem sung
Sailors sing the Gulf's anthem!
Blessings sung and drunk
Blessings sung and drunk
All the dears fleet, dear
Dears fleet, dear fleet, dear
Dears fleet, dear fleet, dear
Lads hot a thirst sport,
Lads hot a thirst sport,
Dears fleet, dear fleet,
Drink to the free Blue,
Drink to the free Blue!
Drink to the free Blue!
Drink to the free Blue!

and see if the State cannot be redeemed by the next Presidential Election."

So, Jerseymen, look out for invasion, and redemption from the black stain that rests upon your State.

Grapes in New-Jersey.—GEO. HAINES, Medford, N. J., thinks that the reason we recommended people to go to Delaware, instead of New-Jersey, was political, rather than horticultural, and offers some reasons upon that score in favor of his State. He says: "Your allusion to our politics has moved us to state a few facts about grape-growing in Jersey. My Hartford Prolifics ripened the latter part of August, and as they were ten days ahead of Delaware's, we thought them very good at the time. Delawares and Rebeccas ripened together, and both about *the same color*. (Will you please to explain the latter fact, for some of your Northern book-makers have called the Rebecca a white grape, and as my vines came from Dr. Grant, through his agent at Mt. Holly, I suppose they are correct. They appear perfectly hardy here, too, which don't agree with your Northern notions. Is that owing to our climate, or political atmosphere?) Finally, they were so good that my wife says she wouldn't know which to choose, but thinks she would prefer the Rebecca, because they are so much larger. The Concords ripened a very little later; and I believe they are better than the Hartfords, but coming after the others, they did not seem as good. (2) Catawbas were better last year than this. Isabellas were better this year than last. The latter grape, when perfected, I consider better than the Concord; but as less than one-third of mine ever get to that happy condition, and then only on young vines, or where sheltered by buildings. I prefer the Concord, and expect to discard both."

(1). The fact is easily explained. The grape you describe is not the Rebecca, no matter where it came from. It is not the first time that we have heard of one kind being sent out for another. Doctor Grant himself is quite infallible. His agents are human. Hence the reason that you have not got the Rebecca, which is a *white grape*. You might as well ask an Ethiopian to change his skin, or New-Jersey her political color as to expect a Rebecca to take the hue of a Delaware.

(2). "The Concord ripened later than Delaware and Rebecca." Then, probably, you have not got the true Concord, particularly as you rank it with Isabella, and expect to discard both. If a bastard Isabella has been palmed upon you for Concord you may discard it. We do not believe that you will discard a simon-pure Concord, because it is a good variety and will ripen before Rebecca anywhere in Jersey.

Will Salt Kill Poultry?—GEORGE HAINES, Medford, N. J., says: "I am willing to add my testimony to that fact. We once had some Indian meal thrown carelessly in a barrel, that had some salt in the bottom. It was used for poultry feed, and when we got to the bottom of the meal it caused the death of some thirty or forty young geese and turkeys besides other mischief. As the salt discussion was on the subject of "gapes in chickens," I beg leave to reiterate my former statement, that I believe Kerosene oil when mixed with their food in proper proportion at times when this disease manifests itself, acts like a perfect specific for it. Last year the disease showed itself in our poultry, I believe, for the first time. This year it appeared earlier, and was more prevalent. Two chickens' died; one of these we opened and found the red worms in the windpipe. The oil was used in their food at two intervals of about four or five days each, when the disease seemed to be entirely eradicated and has not appeared since."

An Apology to New-Jersey.—We think we are honestly bound after reading the following portion of the [illegible] from the above correspondent to make an humble [illegible] for saying that New-Jersey was all Copperhead. [illegible] Haines says: "Now if your patience is not entirely exhausted, will you allow a little more in relation to advice to our inquiring friend. Please to remember that he inquired about South Jersey, where [illegible] elected both our Republican Congressmen, [illegible] one Copperhead candidate high enough to see [illegible] He didn't ask a word about that portion of our State which is overshadowed by your *Union-loving* [illegible] Now, of that portion of our city which is influenced by the Camden and Amboy Road, one abutment [illegible] is in your city. Its brains are thought to be there, all except the medulla oblongata, and nervous [illegible]—these are located further South.

You say we "voted the out-and-out Copperhead ticket for the Rebel candidate for President." [illegible] me, if I remind you that we gave four votes for [illegible] three for Douglas, and not any for Breckenridge. On that occasion this little township gave [illegible] majority for Abe. At the last election, with [illegible] 400 votes we gave him a majority of 116, notwithstanding that more than a hundred of our citizens [illegible] farther South, and were not allowed to vote; [illegible] spite of another fact, viz.: we have had an opportunity to listen to at least three long Philippics by your [illegible] Arch-Apostle of Slavery and Piracy, Chancellor Barr, but Horace's "old coat" was never seen in town, and nothing of Ward Beecher except his [illegible] Now, please to tell us, is it on the same political [illegible] you recommend Delaware for its grape-growing [illegible] that you choose to reside yourself in such a neighborhood as New-York City?"

The reporter acknowledges the hard hit. He [illegible] live in the neighborhood of that Union-loving [illegible] He lives in Westchester County, the south [illegible] which is as full of Rebels as South Carolina.

Splitting Stones by Fire.—JOHN W. SMITH, Pendleton, Ind., thinks it is easier to burn than bury stones [illegible] says: "I have split many of them, and there [illegible] doubt that any boulder, or niggerheads as [illegible] called at the West, will split up into manageable [illegible] and shape if put through the "fire ordeal." We [illegible] this means removed many "old settlers" from [illegible] fields since we learned this fact, that we had [illegible] looked on despairingly as permanent obstructions, besides getting a supply of valuable stone for walls, ditches, &c. Let any one who doubts try it."

We have no doubts upon the subject. We [illegible] doubt the propriety of the fiery ordeal where [illegible] expensive, as it is in this neighborhood. The [illegible] mendation is much more suitable for the locality of Pendleton, Ind., than for most of the localities in [illegible] England.

A Variety of Information.—ROBINSON S. HE[illegible], Pleasant Vale, Ct., is desirous as one of the [illegible] members of the Club, to contribute his quota of information "interesting to farmers," which he [illegible] follows:

"*To Prevent Bugs from Eating Hams.*—When they are taken from the smoke-house in the Spring, dip them in a strong tea made of elder leaves and young sprouts [illegible]

"*Value of Muck.*—An old Quaker uncle of mine [illegible] me that he used muck from two different [illegible] that he formerly owned, with more profit than [illegible] used barn-yard manure. He did not, however, [illegible] it to a piece of heavy clay soil, but on a piece of river land that was naturally sandy. One of my neighbors also has a garden, part of which would n't [illegible] beans, it was so warm and dry. He put on [illegible] muck about five years ago, and it is good land yet.

"*When to Cut Bushes.*—In a discussion of the [illegible] among old farmers, some thought the "old" [illegible] moon in August, when the sign was in the heart [illegible] the time. Others thought there were particular [illegible] in every month, that answered the same purpose. [illegible] the subject ever been ventilated?"

"*How to Restore Worn-out Meadows.*—I have [illegible] meadows that are *run out* that I wish to get back [illegible] their original fertility. The regular way for doing [illegible] in this part of Connecticut is to plow in about [illegible] or thirty loads of manure, plant corn, then sow oats [illegible] grass seed. I don't have manure enough to get [illegible] in that way fast enough; So I had thought of [illegible] more land with corn, and putting on the manure [illegible]

[illegible]

good woman went home and gave her [illegible] to make them nice *all at once*. They d[illegible]

"*Buckwheat for Manure.*—My father [illegible] you to tell your friend that has bought [illegible] Hudson, to turn what grass grows on [illegible] under (plowing but once), and sow buckwheat [illegible] pounds guano per acre for manure. [illegible] turn under the grass again, and sow [illegible] again. If there is but little grass on the [illegible] seed with the first crop of buckwheat [illegible] pay for the labor, and the land in about [illegible] become fertile without manure. My [illegible] cattle on the guano question."

Gravel for Poultry.—J. C. PORTER, [illegible] thinks "if poultry are allowed to run [illegible] the Summer, and kept in a coop with [illegible] plenty of gravel, in the Winter, the [illegible] known among them—provided the co[illegible] empty. Is it not the case that the pri[illegible] come from districts where there are fe[illegible] stones?"

The Chess Question.—JOSHUA LE[illegible] Windsor Co., Vt., and A. D. BYLES, B[illegible] Pa., have both written us their experience [illegible] wheat will turn to chess. We give the[illegible] their arguments, so that any persons of [illegible] may argue the case with them by pri[illegible] once if they desire. It is not thought [illegible] consume the time of the Club in any f[illegible] of this question.

Cheap Land in Delaware.—A. T. JO[illegible] Kent Co., Del., advertises thirty-three [illegible] them not over $16 an acre. We com[illegible] have inquired of us about that State t[illegible] J. or go and see.

What a Woman Can Do.—Mrs. A. J. [illegible] ville, Greene Co., N. Y., says: "Last Sp[illegible] a small lot in this place with one lone [illegible] fence, shrub, flower or tree, except [illegible] tree, which I much fear will be destroyed. I, however, found plenty of weeds [illegible] ground had not been cultivated for [illegible] The ground is naturally very wet. How [illegible] it? My neighbor owns the lower gr[illegible] (1). I wish to set out some nice sort[illegible] cherries, will it do to set them out duri[illegible] (2). In THE TRIBUNE of the 19th inst. [illegible] the subject of improving a farm. [illegible] young orchard it is recommended to [illegible] surplus stones by digging ditches [illegible] large enough to rise up the stones, wo[illegible] my lot, and promote the growth [illegible] I have thought of having earth carted [illegible] some of my neighbors recommend [illegible] matter collected in old mill-ponds, o[illegible] earth from the woods is preferable. W[illegible] on this subject?" (3).

ANS. (1). We do not see how it can [illegible] proved unless your neighbor will allo[illegible] outlet for the water through his land. [illegible] sandy or gravelly you may drain yo[illegible] filled with cobble stones to within three [illegible] face. Into this you will lead your dr[illegible] trees should never be set so late in Aut[illegible] that the ground will freeze before it [illegible] packed by rains around the roots. (3[illegible] would be benefited, undoubtedly, by di[illegible] deep, two-thirds filled with small stone[illegible] an outlet. It is probable that the earth [illegible] would be preferable unless that from [illegible] was previously composted and exposed [illegible] air.

[illegible]

[illegible] make augur-holes, [illegible] or limbs for legs; others may be [illegible] After a little experience the boys [illegible] nasty one for the porch. There should [illegible] in your pasture, and sleek cattle to [illegible] them in hot weather. It is also good [illegible]-trough, romantically situated among [illegible] overflow into a gravelly puddle or [illegible] the grass. It is good to be on [illegible] all your crops. I have heard it said [illegible] that they went about the fields [illegible] to grow—at least, the neighbors [illegible] means for the achievement of such [illegible] who are well acquainted with every [illegible] blade, know how to supply their [illegible] the right time, than another who only [illegible] manure, plant and hoe, however thor[illegible] done."

Talk About Fruit.

At the meeting of the Club, Dec. 8, Mr. Clark [illegible] from an orchard in Northampton, [illegible] a sample of those of several sorts, [illegible] Nelis, Bartlett, Seckel and some [illegible] the appearance of being covered with [illegible] that for several weeks in Sum[illegible] exuded from the leaves and twigs or [illegible] upon them, that attracted bees and [illegible] diseased part cannot be cut away [illegible] the trees. These blackened trees do [illegible] fruit is imperfect. As a general thing [illegible] most affected. Sometimes the top [illegible] and looks healthy after the lower [illegible] turned black. The disease has been [illegible] years. What is it? Is there any [illegible]

[illegible] was acquainted with the disease, and [illegible] name a remedy.

[illegible] thought it looked very much like [illegible] produces black knot in plum and [illegible]

[illegible] Schoharie county, N. Y., sent in for a [illegible] recognized. It is of medium size, rather [illegible] reddish, leathery skin, and firm, [illegible] appears worthy of cultivation. It is [illegible]

[illegible] the originator of grape culture upon [illegible] Erie, being present, gave the Club [illegible] account of the vineyards upon that [illegible] there 23 years ago, and finding [illegible] vigorously, was induced to plant [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] that the Indians of this country, even by their rude methods of taste and smell, found all the medicines they required among the native plants. The Digitalis, now so extensively used by druggists, grew neglected until a botanist discovered its medicinal properties. The study of botany is largely conducive of health, its votaries climbing the rugged mountain, searching along the river bank, or wandering over the open fields, in all their freshness and verdure. The cheerfulness and pleasure of pursuits like these are peculiarly calculated to conduct away from vice and crime, and direct the mind and conversational powers into proper channels. Males and females alike may go forth with joyful hearts in search of the first blossoms of Spring, and inhale the healthful breezes. Rich and poor may here drink their fill, and leave no sting behind, but store the mind with knowledge and health, conducive to a good old age. Such persons, though in the solitude of the forests, are not alone. Mute children of the woods and meadows hold converse with them. Wherever they wander there is a storehouse of knowledge."

The table was set off with some elegant plants from Isaac Buchanan; also several sorts of apples shown in competition for the Greeley prize.

Mr. A. STEVENS, of Western New-York, showed a good-keeping sweet apple, which was named by the society "Stevens's Sweet." Mr. S. claimed that Western New-York raises more apples on a given territory than any other locality on the face of the globe. Climate, he said, had a wonderful effect on the maturity of fruit. The Northern, long-keeping Newtown Pippin was a Fall apple when raised at the South. Frosts, too, hasten the ripening of apples; hence those intended for late keeping should be gathered early.

TUESDAY EVENING, Dec. 13.—Report read upon Andrew Leroy's fruit, with high commendation.

It was reported that Horace Greeley and Prof. Thurber will address the Society at some future meeting.

E. WILLIAMS, New-Jersey, showed Autumn oranges and Pippin apples grown in Ohio, still in good condition, long after the same sorts grown here have disappeared. Peck's Pleasant was also sound and hard enough to keep two months longer. Baldwin apples from Ohio showed less color, but were larger than those grown in Jersey. Mr. Williams also showed the Canfield (sweet) and the Harrison (sour) apples, which, when equally mixed, makes the famous Newark cider. One remarkable property of the Canfield was that bruises would dry up, but not rot, thus making it a good keeper, even when shaken from the tree.

A seedling apple from Orange Co., N. Y., some Tompkins Co. Kings and Fallawaters from Pa., were on the tables in competition for the Greeley $100 prize.

[illegible]

American Institute Horticultural Society.

[illegible]

MARRIED.

[illegible]

DIED.

[illegible]

THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

[illegible]

NEW-YORK CATTLE MARKET.

[illegible]

Albany Live Stock Market.

[illegible]

Continued from Fifth Page.

in quality. Some poor lots are sold at 34c., while a few, very good, laid down late in the season, have brought 40c. We quote:

New-Jersey and Pennsylvania choice, ℔ doz	46@48
State, good	44@46
Western, ℔ doz., good order	43@44
Limed	34@37
Egg Oats, ℔ bush., good	80@85

FRUITS—DRIED.

Dried Apples are inquired for and often sold to arrive, some at 15c. Scarcity of green fruit has caused an advance in most sorts of dry. We quote:

Apples, new, choice, sliced ℔ lb	14½@15
Apples, good, new, ℔ lb	13½@14½
Apples, old, ℔ lb	12 @13
Blackberries, ℔ lb	23 @25
Cherries, pitted, ℔ lb	30 @35
Peaches, peeled, ℔ lb	26 @28
Peaches, Virginia, ℔ lb	30 @34
Plums, ℔ lb	28 @30
Raspberries, ℔ lb	30 @34
Whortleberries, ℔ lb	17 @17
Chestnuts, ℔ bush	$4 00@$5 00
Hickory nuts, ℔ bush	$4 00@$4 50
Black Walnuts, ℔ bush	$1 50@$1 75

FRUITS AND BERRIES.

Apples are nearly all in and stored for the Winter. They are held firm at advanced prices. Lady Apples for Christmas have sold all the way from $6 to $20 ℔ bbl., depending upon quality. Cranberries are scarce and sell higher than last week, retailing at $28@$30 ℔ bbl. We quote:

Apples, good, ℔ bbl	$5 00@$6 00
Apples, Newtown Pippins	5 00@5 00
Apples, R. I. Greenings, ℔ bbl	5 50@6 00
Apples, Baldwins, ℔ bbl	5 50@6 00
Apples, Spitzenbergs, ℔ bbl	6 00@6 50
Apples, Russets, ℔ bbl	4 00@5 00
Apples, Lady, ℔ bbl	10 00@15 00
Cranberries, ℔ bbl	24 00@26 00

LARD AND TALLOW.

Lard, Country, ℔ lb	23 @	24½
Rough Fat, ℔ lb	10 @	11
Tallow, ℔ lb	17½ @	18

MEATS.

Beef and mutton is abundant, with slow sales. The weather is unfavorable. An improved quality adds somewhat to the value. Venison is higher. We quote:

Beef Sides, ℔ lb	10 @	15½
Beef, Fore Quarter, ℔ lb	8 @	14
Beef, Hind Quarter, ℔ lb	12 @	18
Veal, Carcases, ℔ lb	15 @	19
Lamb, Carcasses, ℔ lb	10 @	13
Mutton, Carcasses, ℔ lb	9 @	12
Pork, Carcasses, ℔ lb	17 @	17½
Venison, Carcasses, ℔ lb	14 @	16
Venison, Saddles, ℔ lb	18 @	20

HIDES, SKINS AND FURS.

The quotations here given cannot be calculated upon after Jan. 1, when changes will doubtless be made, founded upon the then current rates of exchange. We quote:

Badger, each	$0 40@$0 60	Marten ... $2 00@10 00
Bear, each	8 00@20 00	Mink, North'n. 5 00@ 7 00
Beaver, ℔ lb	2 75@ 3 50	Mink, South'n. 1 30@ 3 00
Calf, gr'n, ℔ lb	16@ 20	Muskrat ... 15@ 30
Cat, house, ea.	10@ 20	Opossum ... 5@
do., wild, each	50@ 75	Otter, North'n. 4 00@10 00
Cattle, green hides, ℔ lb	8@ 10½	do., Southern. 2 00@ 5 00
		Racoon, N'th'n 40@ 60
Cattle, gr'n salted hides, ℔ lb	14@ 14½	do., Southern. 10@ 30
		Sheep & Lambs. 2 75@ 3 50
do., dry	55@ 60	Skunk, Striped 15@ 40
Deer, W'st. drib	50@ 50	do., Black ... 50@ 1 00
Fox, Red, each	2 00@ 3 50	Wolf, Prairie. 1 00@ 2 00
do., Grey	40@ 1 00	do., Large M'n 2 00@ 3 50
do., Silver	10 00@50 00	

POULTRY AND GAME.

The prospect now is that the city will be crammed as full of Christmas poultry as it was just before ...

---

the payments of the 4th. ... Rates unchanged.

The weekly Bank of England returns show a decrease in the bullion of £241,170 sterling, and of £437,125 in the reserve of notes. Messrs. Wilson, Bowles & Co., East India merchants, London, have suspended with liabilities for about £250,000 Sterling. Baring Brothers & Co. report Bar silver at 5/1½; dollars, 5/1; eagles, 76/4.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.—Baring Brothers & Co.—In American stocks there is no change. U. S. 5-20s alone inquired for at 43.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 3—a. m.

COTTON.—The Brokers' Circular reports: "After the great excitement of last week the trade as well speculators have paused in their operations, partly influenced by the vague rumors from New-York of peace negotiations and their effect upon the Manchester market. Cotton has consequently been in limited demand and freely offered. The inquiry fell off on Saturday. On Tuesday there was some revival, but on Wednesday the market became exceedingly dull and although on Thursday more firmness appeared, a great part of the advance quoted last Friday has been lost in most descriptions. American has been in fair demand but is freely supplied and has declined about 1d. ℔ lb. Sea Island has been in good request and is 1@2d. dearer. For other descriptions there is a decline ranging from 1@2d. ℔ lb.

The sales of the week add up 31,800 bales, including 8,650 for speculation and 6,170 for export, closing at the following quotations: fair Orleans 26½d; Middling 27½d; fair Mobile 26; Middling 21; Fair Uplands 2?; Middling 2?.

Yesterday (Friday) there was a better inquiry with sales of about 12,000 bales, including 6,000 for speculation and export. Prices were firmer and partially ½ dearer. The stock on hand is estimated at 323,800 bales, including 16,310 American. At sea from India, 214,000 bales.

TRADE AT MANCHESTER.—The market yesterday showed some signs of improvement from the depression of Tuesday. There was a fair inquiry and prices were firmer.

BREADSTUFFS—Messrs. Wakefield, Nash & Co., Bigland, Athya & Co., and others, report: Flour firmer but unchanged in quotation. Wheat very quiet, but prices steadily maintained; Winter Red, 7/6@7/10; White, 7/6@9/3 per cental. Corn rather firmer; Mixed Western 28/ ℔ 480 lb.

PROVISIONS—Messrs. Gordon, Bruce & Co., Wakefield, Nash & Co., and others, report: Beef in limited demand and prices weaker. Pork in moderate request at 65/@70/. Bacon slow of sale and a shade easier. Cheese quiet and 2/ lower. Butter in fair demand at 100/@105/. Lard quiet but firm at 50/@53/. Tallow inactive at 40/@41/6 for North American.

PRODUCE.—Ashes firmer; Pots, 29/3@29/6; Pearls neglected; Sugar, very dull and 6/@7 lower; Coffee in better demand; Molasses steady; Rice, 1/@ and full prices are paid; Linseed, scarce and again rather dearer; Clover Seed, sales of American Red at 30/6@40/ for Old, and 43/@46 /for good to fine Yearling; Linseed Oil steady; sales of Cod Oil at £32. Nothing doing in Sperm. Nothing worth reporting in Rosin or Spirits Turpentine, the latter is nominally worth 60/@61.

PETROLEUM.—Messrs. Boutt, English & Brandon report a quiet but steady market at 1/10@1/10½ per gal. for Refined; nothing in Crude.

LONDON MARKETS—Barring Bros. & Co. report Breadstuffs dull without material change in prices. Iron quiet; £6 15/ for Bars and Rails; Scotch Pigs, 50/0. Sugars very dull, again 6d.@1/ lower. Coffee very firm, fully 1/ higher. Rice firm. Tea quiet and steady. Spirits Turpentine, 62 6@63/ for French. Crude Petroleum, £17@£17 10/; Refined, 2/1. Sperm Oil, £64 for American. Linseed Oil very quiet. Tallow dull; Y C, 40/9

HAVRE MARKET—HAVRE, Dec. 1—Cotton—Sales of the week, 5,500 bales; market still declining. New-Orleans tres ordinaire, 250 fr.; do. bas, 235 fr. Stock in port, 50,000 bales.

LATEST.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 3—Evening.

COTTON—Sales to-day 10,000 bales, the market closing firm at yesterday's improvement. The sales to speculators and exporters were 4,000 bales.

Breadstuffs quiet.
Provisions quiet but steady.
Produce dull but steady.

LONDON, Dec. 3—Evening.

Consols for money 89 1-16@89¼.
Illinois Central shares 51@52 discount.
Erie shares 39@40.

[Advertisement.]

E. & O. WARD,

PRODUCE COMMISSION MERCHANTS—(Established 1845)— ...

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A NEW WORK BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE SCHONBERG-COTTA FAMILY," AND "THE EARLY DAWN."

DIARY OF MRS. KITTY TREVYLYAN;

A Story of the Times of WHITEFIELD AND THE WESLEYS.

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A rich store of pleasure is in reserve for those possessing it.

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Printed on laid-tinted paper, illustrated, and in various styles of extra bindings, in price from $6 to $12 per set.

The fine edition of the New Book will be ready about the 26th.

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THE TRIBUNE for 1865.

PROSPECTUS.

The Military and Naval successes of 1864, with the auspicious result of our Presidential contest, have lifted a heavy weight from the breasts of the Loyal Millions of our countrymen. It is now felt even by those who have been distrustful and faint-hearted, that the Union is to emerge triumphant from the deadly strife whereinto she was so wickedly precipitated by her assailants, and that Slavery, her relentless foe, is to encounter the fate of Haman. The perils of foreign intervention and of Western insurrection are safely passed; ABRAHAM LINCOLN, no longer assailable as the choice of a minority, holds the helm of State for four years longer; the Rebellion, palpably weakened by its defeats and losses during the year now closing—with its credit so reduced that its purse-bearer officially declares that its Treasury Notes can only be exchanged for coin at the rate of twenty-five for one, while its bonds command but six cents on the dollar—but awaits the blow which shall soon strike the sword from its parricidal hand and remit its master-spirits to the justice, or it may be to the clemency, of a sorely wronged and justly incensed but forbearing and magnanimous People. Such are the auspices which justify our faith that the year soon to open will see the Stars and Stripes float unchallenged from every battlement in the Republic, and the perfect law of Liberty for All immovably imbedded in the Constitution of our Union.

THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE, founded in 1841, will enter upon its twenty-fourth year with quickened hopes and enlarged means of usefulness. Its principles need no re-statement: its aims are the diffusion of Intelligence and the inculcation of a spirit of Freedom and Humanity. When this truth shall have been generally recognised and established as the basis of our institutions and polity, that injustice to the poorest, the weakest, the most despised, is a fearful mistake—that no community or State can afford to wrong even its humblest member—then will our land bask once more in the calm sunshine of peace and prosperity.

THE TRIBUNE has for the last year been published without profit to its proprietors, solely because of the depreciation of our Currency below the specie standard, compelling us to buy paper and other materials at a cost considerably above the full amount received from our subscribers. On our Weekly edition, the net loss has amounted to many thousands of dollars; while our large receipts from Advertising have been wholly absorbed by the extraordinary expenses for Correspondence, Telegraphing, &c., devolved on us by the War. As we do not suppose our patrons desire that we should work for them at our own cost, and prefer not to be patronized by any who may desire it, we have somewhat advanced for the ensuing year the prices of our Semi-Weekly and Weekly, as we have already done with those of our Daily editions. This increase is purely nominal: there never before was a time when the farmers of our country could buy THE TRIBUNE for so little of their own products or labor as they can by the following

TERMS.

DAILY TRIBUNE.

Single copy	4 cents.
Mail subscribers, 1 copy, 1 year—311 numbers	$10 00

SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE.

Mail subscribers, 1 copy, 1 year—104 numbers	4 00
do. 2 copies, do. do.	7 00
do. 5 copies, or over, for each copy	3 00

Persons remitting for 10 copies, $30, will receive an extra copy for 6 months.

Persons remitting for 15 copies, $45, will receive an extra copy.

WEEKLY TRIBUNE.

Mail subscribers, single copy, 1 year—52 numbers	2 50

New Publications.

A CHRISTMAS WAR BUGLE.

Stir well the toddy! let a jolly body
Aver that Christmas comes but once a year!
Rise, each lass and sailor! clink the brimming pewter,
And round the blazing cedar toast old Winter, King austere,
Toast the soldier's booty, the shapely maiden's beauty,
The sailor in the frosty watch, a swinging 'neath the star,
The parson 'neath the steeple a-marrying the people,
The tattered flags that lead our boys into the jaws of war.

The magnificently illustrated edition of

THE NEW-YORK MERCURY,

for the current Christmas week, contains, in addition to Darley's spirited picture of the "Gallop of Santa Claus," a splendid poem, splendidly embellished, apropos to the Rebellion, and entitled

THE QUAKER SOLDIER;

A TALE OF THREE WAR CHRISTMASES.

BY GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND.

This thrillingly beautiful episode of Quaker pastoral life tells, in the musical heptameter of Evangeline, a story as true, as tender, and as touching; full of the poetry of love, duty, devotion, heroism, suffering, and triumph. A hard, unflinching farmer of the creed of George Fox, standing fast to his non-combative tenets, disowns his nephew because the boy shares the patriotic enthusiasm of the loyal people, and flings his life into "The Rising of the North."

Because, to save their bondman's code,
The Rebels rend our banners,
We Quaker lads are on the road
To teach them better manners.

These snow-drifts are our native down,
The frozen fields our pallets,
The thunder of our guns pursues
Our avalanche of ballots.

Ere treason for its charter gets
One foot of our free heather,
We'll drive a million bayonets
To pin the shreds together.

Ere half the land its creed profess,
We swear, from peer to private,
To plant again the wilderness,
So freedom but survive it!

The thrilling march of this poem is interspersed with variably beautiful ballads. Santa Claus himself could not have indicted a poem more happily suggestive of Merry Christmas. Its denouement is felicitous, its conception entirely novel, and its execution unrivalled.

THE NEW-YORK MERCURY FOR CHRISTMAS is now FOR SALE AT ALL THE BOOK-STORES. PRICE SIX CENTS.

The first of the year will inaugurate the thrilling original novelette by Doctor J. H. ROBINSON, entitled:

ALETHE;

OR,

THE CHILD OF THE CORD,

which will be followed by a splendid new story by Miss M. E. BRADDON, written expressly for THE NEW-YORK MERCURY.

Notwithstanding the upward march of every article of luxury and consumption, and our enormously increased outlay for the year 1865, the Star Paper of the Republic, with its forty columns of starling original matter, will continue to be issued at six cents a copy, and sold by all newsmen and periodical dealers in America. Its long and honorable history insures its subscribers against the casualties and fatalities which have swept so many mushroom journals off the board, and left their patrons disconsolate at the loss of their money.

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Cash in advance: Single copies, $2 50 a year; three copies, $7; six copies, $13; nine copies, $20. The party who sends us $20 for a club of nine copies will receive an additional copy free. Six months' subscriptions received. Canada subscribers must send twenty cents extra for each subscription, to pay the American postage.

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Sales by Auction.

COMMISSIONER'S SALE.

The undersigned, as Commissioner, by order of the Court of Common Pleas of Madison County, State of Indiana, will, on the 28th day of December next, at the Pendleton Mills, on Fall Creek, twenty-eight miles north-east of Indianapolis, on the Bellefontaine Railroad, in said County, offer at Public Sale, all of the REAL ESTATE of SAMUEL D. IRISH, deceased, consisting of about 225 acres subdivided into Lots suited for purchasers, as follows:

Lot No. 1.—A valuable and desirable Farm of about 127 acres, with about 80 acres under cultivation, with dwelling house, out-houses, barn, &c.

Lot No. 2 contains about 51 acres, upon which is situated the Falls of Fall Creek, of unrivaled excellence and beauty, with a Grist Mill and Woolen Factory in operation. Also, a quarry of very excellent and fine building stone. Persons wishing to purchase water power can find none more desirable in the West.

Lot No. 3 contains about 31 acres adjoining said water power and the flourishing village of Pendleton, very fertile, and underlying which are valuable and accessible building stone.

Lot No. 4 contains about 7½ acres, embracing one of the most valuable stone quarries in the West.

Lot No. 5 contains about 4½ acres, suitable for a residence, and also contains building stone.

Lot No. 6 contains about 1½ acres, has fine building stone upon it, and is valuable.

TERMS OF SALE—One-third, cash in hand, one-third in six months, and one-third in twelve months. Deferred payments must be secured by mortgage, waiving relief from value of the appraisement laws. GEORGE R. BOORMAN, Commissioner.

Nov. 2, 1864.

MASTER COMMISSIONER'S SALE of the DAYTON, XENIA & BELPRE RAILROAD, Ohio.—In pursuance of a decree of the Circuit Court of the United States for the Southern District of Ohio, made in a certain case therein pending, wherein Charles W. Rockwell, trustee for the mortgage-bondholders of the Dayton, Xenia and Belpre Railroad, is complainant, and the said Dayton, Xenia and Belpre Railroad Company and others are defendants, rendered at the October term of said Court, A. D. 1864, I, James L. Torbert, Special Master Commissioner in Chancery, by said order and decree appointed, will offer at public auction, at the door of the Court House, in the City of Dayton, in the County of Montgomery, and State of Ohio,

ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, A. D. 1865,

at eleven (11) o'clock in the morning of said day, in one entire parcel, and as an entirety, the following described property, to wit: The entire property and Road of said Dayton, Xenia and Belpre Railroad Company, lying within and between said City of Dayton and the village of Washington, in the County of Fayette, in said State of Ohio, including the right of way, and the lands occupied thereby, by whatever right the same may ...

Financial.

THE TARR FARM PETROLEUM COMPANY OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

Office No. 61 Cedar-st., New-York.

CAPITAL $3,000,000.

30,000 Shares. Par value $100 each.

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To all acquainted with the Oil Region of Western Pennsylvania, the name of this company, as indicating its locality, is significant of the great value of its properties.

There is no better oil territory.

It embraces interests in fee and in more than twenty productive wells and in twelve others now rapidly approaching completion; while the further development of its large unimproved area will, at an early day, greatly increase its product.

We offer it as a permanent dividend paying investment.

A limited amount of this stock can be obtained solely of the undersigned at $50 PER SHARE, BEING ONE-HALF OF ITS PAR VALUE.

The declared dividend for the month is one per cent on its entire capital, to which purchasers within the month will be entitled.

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DECKER BROS., PIANO-FORTE MANUFACTURERS, No. 91 Bleecker-st., one block west of Broadway, invite attention to their New Patent Iron Frame Piano-Fortes, which they warrant for seven years.

Refer to Messrs.

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TO PURCHASERS of ORGANS, MELODEONS or HARMONIUMS—Every one having any thought of purchasing an instrument of this class, should send for one of Mason & Hamlin's Cabinet Organ Circulars, which will be sent to any address entirely free of expense. This circular contains much information which will be useful to any purchaser of such an instrument, such as some account of the "History of the Organ," "History of Reed Instruments," "How to Judge of a Musical Instrument," together with full descriptions of the Cabinet Organs. Address MASON & HAMLIN, Boston, or MASON BROTHERS, New-York.

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KINGSFORD'S OSWEGO STARCH, and CORN-STARCH, for PUDDINGS, &c., are Perfectly Pure.

THEY HAVE THE NATURAL GOLDEN TINGE, and not the chalk-white of the common starches produced by bleaching.

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PYLE'S SALERATUS.	PYLE'S O. K. SOAP.
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A few first-class MEN WANTED to canvass—each taking a specified district. Apply to WARREN S. BARLOW, No. 436 Pearl-st., N. Y.

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PROSPECTUS. FOR THE PURCHASE OF 100,000 ACRES, IN FEE SIMPLE, OF OIL, COAL, IRON, SALT, TIMBER, AND AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WEST VIRGINIA, AT $8 85 PER ACRE, AND FOR PROVIDING A CASH CAPITAL OF $90,000 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS IMMENSE RESOURCES.

TITLE INDISPUTABLE, having been adjudicated by the United States Courts.

THE PURCHASE DIVIDED INTO 650 PARTS, AT $1,500 EACH.

NO PAYMENTS required until all the parts are subscribed for, when, after 15 days' notice, they will be made to JOHN P. YELVERTON, esq., President of the Bank of North America, who has consented to receive the subscription money in trust.

A STOCK COMPANY will be formed on the basis of these 100,000 acres as soon as all the parts are subscribed for, and the Trustees thereof, to be selected by a majority of the parties in interest, will receive the legal title to the property, and also the $90,000 cash capital, to be obtained by the disposal of these parts; said capital to be used by the Company in boring oil wells and otherwise developing the property.

THE ASCERTAINED VALUE of this tract of land, which is by far the largest and cheapest ever offered to the public, with a perfect and settled title, is sufficient to warrant the organization of the Company as contemplated, with a capital which would give each of the 650 parts at least $10,000 for the $1,500 paid in—an amount to be largely increased in value by the development of the property. But when the vastness of the tract, the existence of coal, iron and other mineral substances, and the production of oil, are considered, it will be seen that there is a basis for the organization of not only one but many companies, as a majority of those in interest may determine. Should more than one company be formed, the division of stock will be proportionately greater. And if even a moiety of the oil found in Oil Creek is obtained in the Guyandotte Valley—as there is no reason to doubt, from the geological formation of the country and discoveries already made, which are fully explained in the published pamphlets—there is area enough for a large number of companies, with almost any amount of capital.

THIS TRACT of one hundred thousand acres is situated easterly of, on and near the Guyandotte River, in Cabell County, West Virginia, and in a direct line about twelve miles South of the Ohio. It is well watered by the Guyandotte and the Mud Rivers, and their numerous tributaries and creeks, and affords an immense oil-boring territory, with easy access to all its various parts, and by the slack water navigation of the Guyandotte River to the Ohio, and thence to all the markets of the country.

THE EXISTENCE OF PETROLEUM in this property cannot be doubted. It is, in truth, established by the SINKING OF TWO WELLS; the presence of oil on the surface of the numerous creeks, in the crevices of rock, by the shale that Professor Locke in his report called an "UNCTUOUS CLAY," and in the Saline spring, "FROM WHICH IT HAD TO BE TURNED OUT YEARS AGO." Besides these there are all the other indications noticed in the great oil regions, and in addition there is the unquestionable fact—settled by scientific examination—that the so-called oil belt, as running in a south-westerly direction from the great petroleum regions of Pennsylvania, STRIKES THIS LAND AND RUNS DIRECTLY THROUGH IT to the Burning Springs of the Big Sandy. So that, while the existence of coal, iron, salt, timber, fertile soil, &c., give to the property a value very far beyond the purchase price, the production of oil will, when we consider the extent of the property, increase its worth to an amount almost beyond calculation.

BITUMINOUS AND CANNEL COALS, in seams of an aggregate thickness above water level, of from twenty-three to twenty-eight feet, are known to underlie it in exhaustless quantities. Besides this, there are

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VALUABLE TIMBER of every description. The climate is all that could be desired, while the lands for

AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES are abundantly proven to be equal in quality to those on the Ohio side.

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EBEN B. CROCKER, firm of Crocker & Warren, No. 140 Pearl-st.

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Messrs. BEADLESTON & PRICE, No. 139 West Tenth-st.

JAMES W. UNDERHILL, No. 79 Dey-st.

Messrs. PACKER & KNAPP, No. 239 Washington Market.

And EDGAR E. BOLLEY, Globe Insurance Company, corner of Fulton and Greenwich-sts.

Reference is also made to Messrs. CUMMINS, ALEXANDER & GREENE, Counselors at Law, No. 30 Exchange Place, and also to GUSTAVUS A. SACCHI and E. G. BURLING, No. 54 William-st., New-York, to whom applications for the parts by letter may be made.

FLAX BRAKES—FLAX BRAKES—MALLORY & SANFORD'S FLAX and HEMP BRAKES are pronounced by persons who have used them, the best in the world. They have been improved lately in their quality, and are better than when they were called the best. The No. 1 Machine weighs about 900 lbs., occupies about 5 feet square, and requires one-horse power. Will break 2,500 pounds Flax Straw in ten hours, taking out 65 to 70 per cent of the woody matter. A man and a boy can operate it without any danger to life or limb. Flax and Hemp, when dressed by this Machine, are always in demand.

This machine can be run with any power by simply applying a belt to the wheel. They do not easily get out of order. They have taken the first prize everywhere they have been exhibited, viz: in N. Y., N. J., Ohio, Ill., &c.

This machine will save 120 pounds to the ton of Flax more than any other machine in the world, and will pay for itself in a few days. Flax is selling at such prices, that any farmer who will examine the matter, will see that he cannot afford to do without a Brake. Hundreds are using and praise them highly. Send for a pamphlet, which will be sent free of cost, and learn more about, and get the opinion of those using them, and you will be fully satisfied of their value.

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